FRIDAY
April 7, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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NEW CAMP

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A very different conception of 'Ram Rajya'

Gandhiji's vision of harmony is in danger

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KNIGHT RIDERS' DAY OUT

Shardul and spinners help KKR crush RCB

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Cong. releases second list of 42 candidates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition Congress on Thursday released its second list of candidates comprising 42 names for the Karnataka Assembly elections, while the ruling BJP is set to finalise its first list during the party's parliamentary board meeting on Saturday.

Another Opposition party, the Janata Dal (S), has deferred the release of its second list by a few more days.

In the second list, the Congress accommodated four migrants who came from the ruling BJP and the JD(S). However, the former Kadur MLA Y.S.V. Datta, who quit the JD(S) recently, has missed the ticket.

Another interesting feature of the second list is that the party is yet to take a call on the candidate for the Kolar seat.

DETAILS ON
» PAGE 6

Online platforms must take down PIB-flagged 'fake news'

Centre amends IT law; intermediaries cannot bank on Section 79 that now gives them immunity for content put up by users; they have to remove anti-government posts once PIB sends out alert

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Social media platforms and other intermediaries on the Internet are now required to make sure that "fake news" articles about the Union government, deemed and declared as such by its Press Information Bureau (PIB), are taken down from their platforms when they are alerted to such posts.

The changes were notified on Thursday evening through the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023, amending the IT Rules, 2021. Sources in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) had earlier told *The Hindu* that the fact check unit would reach out to relevant government departments to get their view on whether a piece of news is fake or not, and take a call accordingly.

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar outlined a defence of the proposal at a press conference here on Wednesday. "What the Government of India is saying [in these Rules] is that if there is an aggrieved party, and a party that is causing the aggrievement, then Section 79 [of the Information Technology Act, 2000] will not be a safe harbour to prevent a dispute from being adjudicated in the courts," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Censoring 'fake news'

A rundown on the new amendments in the IT Rules, 2021

- The amendment requires platforms to take **steps to prevent "fake news" on the Central Government** from being hosted
- The government will **appoint an agency, likely the Press Information Bureau,** to determine what is considered to be fake news
- MoS Chandrasekhar said this **amendment would only remove the legal shield for third party posts on social media** platforms, and wouldn't constitute censorship

"I don't want anybody to conflict this as some battleground between free speech and misinformation."
RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Amendment to check online real money gaming

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology released an amendment to the IT Rules, 2021, to regulate "online real money games" where users have to risk money to play, while the I&B issued a fresh advisory warning media entities against airing advertisements of betting and gambling platforms. » PG 10

Pause, not pivot, says Das after RBI holds policy rate at 6.5%

Holding steady

The repo rate — the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks — was held at 6.5%. Graph shows the repo rate since March 2019

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

In a surprise move on Thursday, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%, citing global financial stability concerns as a key factor in the decision. Five of the MPC's six members also voted to keep policy focused on the withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target, while supporting growth.The MPC has raised interest rates continuously since May to stem inflation. The RBI said it would remain watchful and would not hesitate to take further action as may be required. "It's a pause and not a pivot," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said at a press conference.

CONTINUED ON
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NEARBY

EC to keep a close watch on social media campaigns

BENGALURU
In the wake of the continuing trend of political parties, candidates, and their supporters using social media in a big way, the Election Commission is keeping a close watch on such campaigns.

» Page 6

METROPLUS » PAGE 5

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THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Challans issued by authorities for traffic violations in 2022

4.73 In crore. Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed Parliament that challans worth ₹7,563.6 crore were issued last year compared to more than 4.21 crore challans worth ₹5,318.70 crore issued in 2021. PTI

Trains cancelled as protests by Kudmi community continue

85 trains. The protest that started at six am on Tuesday, by the Kudmi community for ST status, continues as different organisations of the community block railways and roads in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district. PTI

Increase in Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) to India in 2022

6.19 In million. Though the number of FTAs has not come back to pre-pandemic levels, it has increased compared to 1.52 million during the same period in 2021, according to Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy. PTI

Post offices in difficult terrain without mobile network or net acess

879 Post offices. The Department of Posts has taken up the matter of providing connectivity to post offices not having mobile networks or internet connectivity with the Department of Telecommunications. PTI

The expected export grain from Ukraine in April to June quarter

15.6 million tonnes. After the Russian invasion, Ukraine's grain harvest fell sharply. Ukraine's Deputy Farm Minister said that the volume of export could include 10 million tonnes of grain. Reuters

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Representation in India's police forces

What does the third edition of the India Justice Report note about the gap between the sanctioned and actual strength in police forces at the national level? Which State has bagged the top rank among States with populations over 10 million with respect to fulfilment of vacancies and reservation of posts for women and SC/STs?

BACKGROUNDER

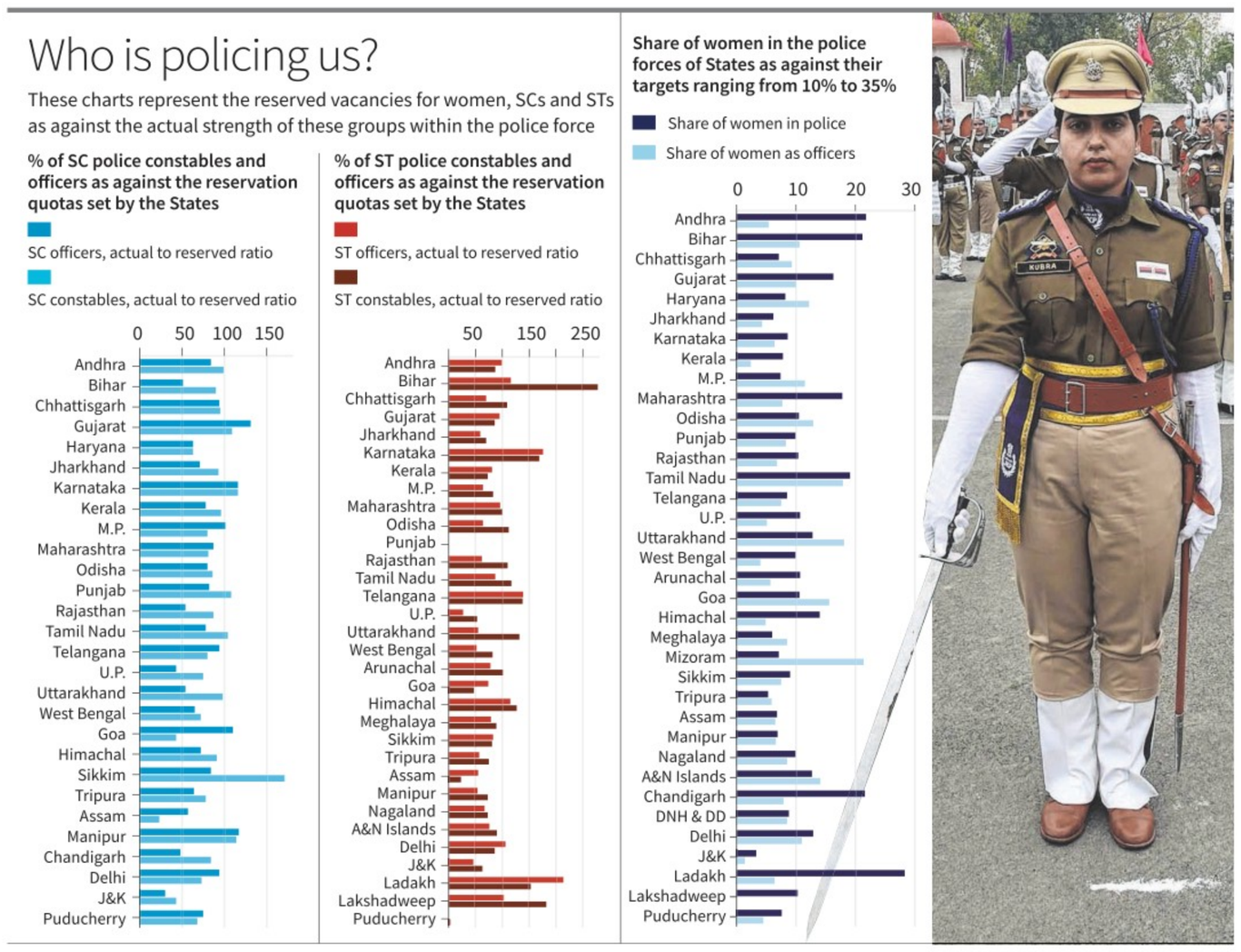
Diksha Munjal

The story so far:

On a national level, it will take another 24 years to have 33% women in police forces across States. These figures are a part of the India Justice Report 2022, released by Tata Trusts on April 4. It ranks police forces of States based on various indicators such as vacancies as against the sanctioned strength of personnel, representation of women and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities and so on. Overall, the Telangana police have bagged the top rank among States with populations over 10 million, while West Bengal has come in last.

What is the state of police vacancies?

The third edition of the India Justice Report notes that the gap between the sanctioned and actual strength in police forces, at a national level, remains "worryingly large". As per the report's findings, between January 2020 (second edition) and January 2022, the overall vacancies in police rose from 20.3% of the sanctioned strength to 22.1%. The report collates data from various official sources for 25 ranked States, dividing them into two clusters – 18 large and mid-sized States and seven small-sized States (populations up to 10 million). It also presents information for unranked States and Union Territories. In the case of police constables, as of January 2022, while West Bengal was the worst performer among large and mid-size States with vacancies amounting to 44.1% of the sanctioned strength, Kerala was at the top with constable vacancies making up 4.6% of the sanctioned strength. As for police officers (in civil as well as District Armed Reserve police), Bihar has the highest percentage of vacancies at 53.8% as against the sanctioned strength. The report also mentions that some States bring down their sanctioned strength, which can consequently result in reduced vacancy levels. For instance, between 2020 and 2022, Kerala reduced the sanctioned strength of civil police by 239 personnel, resulting in a reduction of vacancies while workload increased.



How many States fulfil their quotas for women and SC/ST communities?

Despite years of reservations, Karnataka was found to be the only State to meet its SC, ST, and Other backward classes quotas, with no other State/UT managing to meet all three of their reservation targets. Among large and mid-sized States, Gujarat, at 131%, performed the best in terms of the percentage of actual SC police officers to its reservation quota, while Uttar Pradesh came in last, with just 43% SC officers against its quota. As for the constabulary workforce, Karnataka had 116% of SC constables against its quota, while Haryana had the lowest at 63%. As for small States, Goa and Sikkim were the best performers for the percentage of SC officers and constables, respectively. In terms of fulfilling reservations for STs, Karnataka, at 176%, was the best performer on the police officer level, going beyond its reserved ratio. For ST constables, Bihar fulfilled its quota by 278%, while Punjab came in last amid large and medium States at 0.01%.

When it comes to women's representation in the police force, most States have their own specific quotas for how many women there should be in the police force. For instance, six UTs and nine States have a target of 33% reservation for women. Elsewhere, targets range from Bihar's 35% to 10% in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura. Five States/UTs, including Kerala and Mizoram, have no reservations. As per the findings, no State which had the 33% criteria, managed to meet it. However, among large and medium States, Andhra Pradesh which reserves 33% of overall police posts for women, performed the best with 21.8% being its share of women in police. Jharkhand was the worst performer with its share of women in police being just 6.2%. In small States, Himachal Pradesh was at the top with 14% of police personnel being women, while Tripura came in last with just 5.3%. Among Union Territories, Ladakh had 28.3% women in police, while Jammu and Kashmir had just 3.3%.

THE GIST

- The India Justice Report 2022, released by Tata Trusts on April 4 ranks police forces of States based on various indicators such as the numbver of vacancies against the sanctioned strength of personnel, representation of women and SC/ST communities.
- Despite years of reservations, Karnataka was found to be the only State to meet its SC, ST, and Other backward classes quotas, with no other State/UT managing to meet all three of their reservation targets.
- The third edition of the India Justice Report notes that the gap between the sanctioned and actual strength in police forces, at a national level, remains "worryingly large".

Why is Japan circumventing sanctions on Russian oil?

Why did the West impose a price cap on Russian oil? Will other countries follow Japan's example?

Prashanth Perumal J

The story so far:

Japan has been purchasing oil from Russia at a price above the $60 per barrel price cap imposed by the West, according to reports this week. This has led to speculation that Japan may be breaching an agreement reached last year to cap the price of Russian oil.

Why is there a price cap on Russian oil?

The G-7 countries, the EU, and Australia imposed a $60 per barrel price cap on oil purchased from Russia starting in December. The move was part of the wider economic sanctions imposed by the West to punish Russia following its invasion of Ukraine. The West wants to restrict the amount of money that Russia can make by selling its oil, but without severely affecting global oil supply. Since Russia contributes about 10% of global oil supply, any significant reduction in Russian oil supplies could send oil prices soaring. It is estimated that it costs Russia about $20-$45 to produce a barrel of oil. So, the West believes that, at $60 per barrel, Russia would still keep its oil output steady.

Why is Japan breaking ranks with the West?

In the first two months of the year, Japan purchased about 750,000 barrels of oil from Russia at a price of about $70 per barrel. Japan's oil import contributes very little to Russia's overall oil production, which was about 10.7 million barrels per day last year, and thus does not significantly subvert the West's efforts to restrict the Kremlin's oil revenues.

However, Japan's decision to purchase oil above the price cap once again brings to the fore the strong incentives facing countries to subvert the West's $60 per barrel price cap. It should also be noted that, even when the price cap was first imposed last December, Japan had won an exception to purchase Russian oil from Sakhalin-2 in Russia's Far East to protect its energy security.

Will more countries follow Japan?

Japan is not the only country that is undermining the West's $60 price cap on Russian oil. Countries such as India, for instance, are believed to be paying more than $60 per barrel to purchase oil from Russia. As oil prices rise, the chances of a rift developing even among signatories to the oil price cap arrangement grow higher. When buyers are willing to pay more than $60 per barrel to secure supplies, oil traders will likely be happy to subvert sanctions and deliver supplies from Russia. Critics of the oil price cap had warned that implementing the price cap may be difficult because it works against strong economic incentives and because it may be impossible to keep track of all shipments in such a large, opaque oil market.

Will rising oil prices threaten the West's price cap?

On Monday, OPEC and Russia decided to cut their oil output by 3.66 million barrels per day, sending oil prices soaring 6%. Russian urals, the flagship crude oil sold by Russia, also soared above $60 per barrel, thus breaching the West's price cap. When the West first imposed its price cap, it had no effect on Russia's oil output or revenues as Russian urals were trading well below $60 per barrel. But now with urals trading above $60 per barrel, things might turn out to be different. The West would hope that its price cap would keep Russia's oil revenues in check despite rising oil prices. Russia, which has seen its oil revenues drop due to subdued oil prices and the West's ban on Russian oil, will be hoping to turn the corner by bypassing Western sanctions and selling oil above the price cap. This will test the West's ability to effectively implement its price cap.

THE GIST

- Japan has been purchasing oil from Russia at a price above the $60 per barrel price cap imposed by the West.
- Japan's decision to purchase oil above the price cap brings to the fore the strong incentives facing countries to subvert the West's $60 per barrel price cap.
- On Monday, OPEC and Russia decided to cut their oil output by 3.66 million barrels per day, sending oil prices soaring 6%.

INBRIEF

Flying squad seizes MLA's car with saris and blouse pieces

Officials of the flying squad on Thursday seized Jayanagar MLA Soumya Reddy's car with 23 saris and an equal number of blouse pieces and shawls. The car was intercepted at Jayanagar checkpost. Ms. Reddy was not in the car. The driver Ramachandrappa was questioned before he was handed over to the Tilaknagar police, alleging that the materials found were to woo voters. The officials submitted a report to the court seeking permission to file an FIR against Ms. Reddy.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (April 7, Friday), the following explainer is available:

- Why is Japan circumventing sanctions on Russian oil? **bit.ly/russiapriceoilcap**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Lesson on poverty dropped from I PU (Economics) NCERT textbook

Recently, lessons related to the RSS, Mahatma Gandhi, and others were also dropped attracting widespread criticism across the country

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Chapters on 'poverty' and 'infrastructure' have been dropped from the Indian Economic Development textbook, drawing flak from economists and educationists. FILE PHOTO

Amidst the controversy over revision of textbooks, the State Department of Pre-University Education (DPUE), which has adopted the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) rationalised syllabus for the I and II PU Science and Commerce streams for 2023-24 academic year, has dropped a chapter on poverty from the I PU (Economics) textbook.

Chapters on 'poverty' and 'infrastructure' have been dropped from the Indian Economic Development textbook, drawing criticism from economists and educationists.

The DPUE has officially adopted NCERT textbooks for I and II PU Science stream (Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Biology (PCMB) and Commerce stream (Economics, Business studies and Statistics) students. The same economics textbook is followed by the Arts stream students also.

Recently, NCERT, the key government body that produces textbooks for students from class 1 to 12, dropped many lessons in textbooks, particularly related to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Mahatma Gandhi and others, attracting widespread criticism across the country.

"The Union government is trying to exaggerate the Indian economic system by hiding the facts about poverty. Understanding the facts and figures of the country's poverty at the college level is the stepping stone to understand the development of the country and its economy. But the government is suffering from *ache din* concept. That's why it has dropped chapters like poverty," said economist and retired professor Babu Mathew.

Niranjanaradhya V.P., development educationist, added, "The Union government is ignoring the country's realities of poverty, injustice, unemployment and other things and it is always claiming that this is an international conspiracy. At the I PU level, students should be taught about the realities of our country's economy. It will help their future education. They are the stakeholders of the country's future. They will find the solutions to various problems. Hiding the truth from them is nothing but destroying the country's future."

A I PU Economics lecturer, on condition of anonymity, said, "Chapters like poverty and infrastructure are basic to understand the Indian economic system at the I PU level. In the degree courses, students will learn this issue in a broader way. There is no proper reason to drop this chapter. But we don't have any other option than to follow the department's instructions."

Nine vehicles damaged in fire accident during temple procession

Two-wheelers that were damaged because of the fire and (right) devotees burning camphor outside the Dharmaraya Swamy temple, in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nine bikes were burnt and a few people sustained minor injuries in a fire accident triggered during the *karpoora arathi* in Dharmaraya Swamy temple on Thursday.

The incident occurred on the temple premises in Cottonpet. As part of the temple procession, a huge quantity of camphor was kept for the *arathi* and as soon as the fire was lit, it spread rapidly, engulfing bikes parked on the sides of the road. The police doused the fire by getting water from nearby houses. Luckily, except a few minor injuries, there were no major casualties, a police official said.

What worried the police was a huge bundle of wires dangling on the road, which could have cause short circuit to houses adjacent to the narrow lanes. The temple management committee had earlier refused the advice to not use camphor citing tradition and rituals, but after the incident, the police managed to convince them, officials said.

Pvt. school managements' association says fee hike won't be above 10-15 %

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An association of 11 private school managements - Karnataka Private School Managements Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff Co-Ordination Committee (KPMTCC) - announced here on Thursday that they will not increase the school fee above 10-15% for the next academic year.

Speaking at a press conference, Shashikumar D., convener of the committee, said, "Earlier, according to the order of the Department School Education and Literacy, there was a provision to increase the annual school fee up to 10 to 15%. However, private schools of the State approached the High Court to ensure that the schools have freedom to work out their fee structure based on the culture of the school. The court has ruled that the government should not interfere with the freedom of schools to manage their affairs. This freedom comes with a lot of responsibilities."

"Most the schools understand this and appreciate the responsibilities reposed on them. But a few unscrupulous elements misuse provisions like freedom and bring a bad name to the entire community of private schools. These are the unauthorised schools, teaching central board syllabus illegally by taking State board affiliation. Therefore, we the associations of schools, would like to make it clear that we do not appreciate the move by any school to exploit the situation by rising the fees to an unreasonable level," he said.

"We would like to request the schools to think of the parent community and take decisions supporting the general ethos of schools. A sudden rise of fee above 10 to 15% would need clear support of the parent community, who in general would be keen to support the school. This year, the government itself has increased the examination fee by 10% and the textbook rate by 25%. Therefore, schools increasing the fee by 10 to 15% is inevitable. If parents are having trouble with such a hike, they have all rights to raise their voice and bring it to our notice too," Mr. Shashikumar said.

"After the High Court order, there is no school fee regulatory in the State. Before challenging the High Court order in the upper court, the government should call a meeting with private schools managements. We are ready to form a self regulatory mechanism. We also request the government to publish the unauthorised school list in the public domain and take necessary legal action against those schools," he demanded.

Three held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mahalakshmi Layout police caught three persons with a bag of demonetised currency notes on Wednesday. The accused were from a neighbouring town and were waiting for their contacts to deliver the bag.

Two brothers and their friend arrested for murdering neighbour

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The HAL police arrested three people for allegedly beating their neighbour to death over loud music on Sunday night.

The accused have been identified as Anirudh Samant Rai, Basudev Samant Rai and Abhishek Singh. According to the police, Anirudh is the younger brother of Basudev and was living close to the house of the victim Lloyd Nehemiah, 54, while Abhishek was a friend of Anirudh living in Delhi and working for a law firm.

According to the police, the accused brothers are engineers and sons of a Deputy Superintendent of Police serving in the State Crime Record Bureau in Odisha. Anirudh had invited Abhishek to the naming ceremony of his nephew.

On the fateful day, they got drunk and were playing cards inside the house the whole night and later decided to go to a shop, said the police. They took the car out and played loud music passing by the house of Llyod, who was taking care of his ailing and bedridden mother.

An irritated Llyod noticed them returning with the same volume of music after visiting the shop. Heated arguments ensued which later took an ugly turn when the trio attacked Llyod.

In the melee, Llyod fell down and hurt his knee. After complaint and counter complaints from both, Llyod developed complication and was taken to the hospital where the doctor advised corrective surgery for leaking of fluid in the knee.

In the process, Llyod's blood pressure dropped due to which he succumbed.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, APR. 07	
RISE 06:12	SET 18:31
RISE 19:38	SET 06:51
SATURDAY, APR. 08	
RISE 06:12	SET 18:32
RISE 20:31	SET 07:32
SUNDAY, APR. 09	
RISE 06:11	SET 18:32
RISE 21:29	SET 08:16

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	34	19
Bengaluru	34	22

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of rain or thundershower is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SREEKUMAR POTTI (76)
Passed away Peacefully on 6th April 2023 in Chennai, India.
Last rites at 2:00P.M. on Saturday, 08-04-2023 in his home: Flat B, Badikeri, 27/8, Nowroji Rd, Chetpet, Ch- 31.
Cremation at 4:30 P.M. in New Avadi Road Crematorium.
Dearly missed by beloved
Friends & Colleagues of Scigenics (India) Pvt. Ltd., Chennai.

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website:www.idbibank.in

Basavanagudi Office, Bengaluru Karnataka

OFFICE PREMISES REQUIRED

Bank desires to acquire office premises on long lease preferably on the Ground Floor at Basavanagudi having carpet area within 1800 - 2000 sq ft is sought for lease, Preferably located on the main road having good frontage, visibility, adequate power supply and parking facility in potential commercial cum residential areas. Interested parties owning suitable premises may apply within 10 days (excluding the date of advertisement) on or before 18 Apr 2023 by 6.00 PM, to Shri **Srinivasa N, GM & Sr Regional Head, IDBI Bank Ltd, IDBI House 58, Mission Road Bengaluru – 560027 Ph No: 080-45359601.** Estate agents offering premises should submit their offers with full details along with authorization letters from landlords. **No brokerage will be paid by the Bank.** IDBI Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reasons thereof. The applications should be made as per the **"Instructions / Guidelines for submitting the offer"** hosted in our website **www.idbibank.in** under Notices-Tenders or collected from any of our branches.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager & Zonal Head
Retail Banking Group (Bengaluru Zone)

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 07.04.2023

FUNDERMAX INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
Regd address: Sy No. 7, Honnenahalli Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore 560064. Email id: prashanth.reddy@fundermax.biz
CIN: U36998KA2007PTC059958

NOTICE OF REDUCTION OF PAID UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL
C.P No.181/BB/2020 Under Section 66, read with NCLT
(Procedure for Reduction of Share Capital of Company) Rules, 2016

The Honorable National Company Law Tribunal "NCLT", Bengaluru Bench vide its order dated 16th March, 2023 has approved the scheme of "Reduction of Share capital" of the company by approving the minutes set forth herein below:

"The issued, subscribed and paid-up equity share capital of the Company from INR 1,00,50,000/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Thousand only) consisting of 10,05,000 (Ten Lakhs Five Thousand) equity shares of INR 10 (Rupees Ten only) each to INR 77,50,000/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Fifty Thousand only) consisting of 7,75,000 (Seven Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand) equity shares of INR 10 (Rupees Ten only) each."

This advertisement is being published as per the directions of the NCLT, in its order dated 16th March, 2023.

Further the certified copy of the said order was filed by the company with the Registrar of Companies, Bangalore, Karnataka on 05th April, 2023.

For Fundermax India Private Limited
Sd/- **Prashanth Reddy,** Director
DIN: 02699501

Place: Bangalore
Date: 07-04-2023

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

TENDER ALERT

1)E-Tender Notice No.CPC-01/2023-24: Bids are invited under two part bidding system from the reputed firms/ agencies for providing catering services on contract (outsourced) basis at Transit House, Bhubaneswar, Guest House of Puri, Rourkela & Berhampur under OPTCL for a period of two years.

Complete set of bidding documents are available on:**www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** portal and OPTCL's official website: **www.optcl.co.in**.

HIPR-02/2023-24
CAD-93 OIPR-04011/11/0002/2324

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners **(i) Sri.K.V.Srinivasa, (ii) Sri.K.V.Narayanasa, (iii) Sri.K.V.Maruthi, (iv) Sri.K.V.Ravi Kumar** and **(v) Sri.K.V.Srihari,** all are sons of late K.G.Venkusa.

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.96 (old No.95 & 96), PID No.46-4-96, measuring East to West 60ft and North to South 108ft, situated at 2nd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Property belongs to K.G.Rajaram
West by : Property belongs to K.G.Lakshman
North by : 2nd Main Road
South by : Conservancy

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mrs. V. Anasuya,** residing at Old No.599, New No.18, House No.1, First Floor, S.L. Byrappa Road, Hanumantha Nagar, Bangalore-560 019, is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property mentioned below in the Schedule and she has lost/misplaced the Original deed bearing document No.1095/1964-65, dated 18-05-1964, Original Sale Deed executed by CITB, dated 06-06-1964, bearing document No.1476/1964-65 and original deed bearing document No.1544/1976-77 dated 22-12-1976 pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 06-04-2023, Lost report No.0524906/2023. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/ **within 7 days** and they may be suitable awarded, and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that property bearing New Municipal **No.36,** BBMP PID No.52-46-36, Old No. 610/18, VIth Cross, adjacent to Sunkenahalli (now called Hanumantha Nagar), Bangalore, constructed in 1964 on a site measuring 40' x 45' (Forty feet by Forty Five feet) with all civic amenities and bounded on:

East by : Somashekar House; West by : Dr. Narayana Ganapathy House; North by : Road; South by : Smt. Rukminiyamm's House;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-500 020.
Contact : 9740718436

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. RAJKUMAR MANDAL S/o. Sri. Tankeswar Mandal has intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner M/s. Pionier Project, Represented by its Partner Smt. Kavitha Ramreddy W/o. Sri. A. Rama Reddy, having office at No. 48, i-star Building, 100 Feet, Koramangala 4 th Block, Bangalore-560034.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Vacant Site No.17, Panchayath Khata No. 1405/17, PID No.150200100500624546 in Layout Known as "PIONIER MAYFAIRRE PROJECT/HOGWARTS VILLAS" vide approved Plan No.BDA/TPM/PRL-52/2021-22/2152/2022-23 dated 07-12-2022, formed in converted land bearing Sy. No. 81/1, situated at Chikkanagamangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk Measuring East to West 12.19 Mtrs. and North to South 9.14 Mtrs. in all measuring 111.48 Square Mtrs. and bounded on: East by : Site No. 32, West by : Road, North by : Park, South by : Site No. 18.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
 # 96, 1 Floor, 1 Main, 4th Cross,
Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala,
Bangalore-560068
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 06-04-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my Clients **Mr. Mohammed Iqbal Baig** and **Mrs.Sayeeda Taj,** Mobile No.8971727964 have negotiated to purchase below mentioned Schedule Property from its present registered owner Mrs. Shreelakshmi .J, Daughter of Late V.B. Chandrasekaran (Who is the allottee of schedule Property). Any person/s, institution/s having any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge or encumbrance over the schedule property may notify his/their claim or objections if any, together with documentary proof to the undersigned **within Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be conclusively presumed and deemed that no person/s has/have any right, title, interest, claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever in the Schedule Property and further my client will be entitled to proceed with the transaction and get register the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel Municipal New No.26 (Old No.19ID), situated at 3rd Cross Road, L.I.C.Colony, Byrasandra, Bangalore, with allotted PID No 60-70-26, New BBMP Ward No.169, measuring East to West-30feet and North to South-45feet in all 1350 sq.ft. Bounded on the: **East by:** Site No.20, **West by:** Site No.18, **North by:** 3rd Cross Road, **South by:** Site No.5.

R.A. RAHMAN & ASSOCIATES,
ADVOCATES
#1, 'Tipu Chambers', 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, N.R. Road, Bangalore - 560 002.
KARNATAKA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general Public that my client is intending to purchase agricultural land bearing Sy.No.136 New Sy.No.136/2 measuring 01 Acre 06.08 guntas belongs to **Sri.B.R.Prakash S/o Rushiyappa,** Sy.No.136/3 measuring 01 Acre 05.08 Guntas belongs to **Sri.G.Shashikanth S/o G.Seetharam Rao,** Sy.No.136/4 measuring 01 Acre 05.08 Guntas belongs to **Sri.A.K.Jaikrishna S/o A.Keshava Bhat,** and Sy.No.136/5 measuring 01 Acre 05.08 Guntas belongs to **Sri.E.Ishwara Bhat S/o Y. Sham Bhat, all the lands situated at Hasaruhalli Village, Thyamagondlu Holbi, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengluru Rural District,** which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter called as the Schedule Property. The owners of the above said lands have handed over the xerox copies of the documents in respect of the above said lands to my client. Any person/s having any claim, right, title, interest in the Schedule Property may file their objections to the undersigned with documentary proof, **within 15 days** from the date of publication of this Notice and if no valid objections are received within stipulated time, my client will proceed with assumptions that, there are no objections or claims of whatsoever nature from any person/s for purchasing the schedule property from my client. Any objection received after 15 days will not be entertained and my client will proceed to purchase the land in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing Sy.No.136 New Sy.No.136/2 measuring 01 Acre 06.08 guntas, Sy.No.136/3 measuring 01 Acre 05.08 Guntas, Sy.No.136/4 measuring 01 Acre 05.08 Guntas, and Sy.No.136/5 measuring 01 Acre 05.08 Guntas **all the lands situated at Hasaruhalli Village, Thyamagondlu Holbi, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengluru Rural District** and bounded on: **East by :** Road and land bearing Sy.No.146, **West by:** Land bearing Sy.No.141, **North by :** Land bearing Sy.No.145, **South by :** Land bearing Sy.No.136/1.

J.S.Dinesh, Advocate
No.74, "Marthurshree", 76th Cross,
12th "E" Main Road, 6th Block,
Rajajinagara, Bengaluru-560 010,
Ph: 9448020528, Off. Ph. No.080-23300528.
Date : 06-04-2023, Place : Bangalore.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

GETTY IMAGES

Shows and dramas on the music business: money does not talk, it sings

While there are many shows, documentaries and movies on artistes, here is a look at some that focus on the music industry. While *Vinyl* looks at the music scene of the 1970s, *Roadies* shows us the realities associated with a touring band

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

One of the crushingly saddest things about HBO content not being available on Disney+Hotstar after March 31, apart from not being able to watch *Game of Thrones* on repeat or taking another trip with Joel and Ellie through a post-apocalyptic U.S., is the horror of not being able to watch *Vinyl* again.

Vinyl has an impeccable pedigree counting as it does Rolling Stones' frontman, Mick Jagger, director Martin Scorsese, author and *Rolling Stone* contributor, Rich Cohen, and *Boardwalk Empire's* Terence Winter as its creators. With an almost feature-length (113 minutes) pilot episode, directed by Scorsese, *Vinyl* looks at the music scene in the 1970s through the eyes of a record executive, Richie Finestra (Bobby Cannavale), as he desperately looks for the next big act to promote.

The song remains the same

Cannavale is on fire as Richie who is trying to hold it all together even as he struggles to stay sober while keeping his label, American Century, and marriage to former Factory model, Devon (Olivia Wilde), afloat. Featuring a cavalcade of historical personalities from Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant (Zebedee Row) complete with the blue, puff-sleeved shirt from the Madison Square Garden concerts of 1973, Alice Cooper (Dustin Ingram) and David Bowie (Noah Bean) to Elvis Presley (Shawn Klush), his manager Colonel Tom Parker (Gene Jones) and Beatle, John Lennon (Stephen Sullivan), there is an air of hyper-reality to the show.

Though *Vinyl* features all these incredible musicians and Jagger's doppelganger son, James Jagger, as the lead singer of the punk band, Nasty Bits, the 10-part series also focuses on the industry, the managers, the executives and all the support staff including the sandwich girl, Jamie (Juno Temple), who discovers Nasty Bits.

Hit the road, Jack

A large part of being a rockstar is the relentless touring and the toll it takes on the musicians as we saw in the recently dropped, faintly soap-operatic *Daisy Jones & the Six*. *Roadies*, created by rocker royalty, *Almost Famous*' Cameron Crowe, with J. J. Abrams as one of the executive producers, stars Luke Wilson as the tour manager Bill Hanson, and Carla Gugino as the production manager Shelli Anderson, for the Denver-based The Staton-House Band.

Roadies begins with a quote by singer and guitarist, Tom Petty. "I think the general public has no idea what roadies do. Bless 'em all, I just play the songs, they make the show happen." That, in a nutshell is what the *Roadies* is about. From finding a nanny/manny for the lead singer's "devil child", Winston, (Ethan Michael Mora), to protecting the microphone used by Bruce Springsteen in the 'Dancing in the Dark' video (yes the one featuring Courteney "Monica" Cox) from a fanatical groupie, the roadies make it all happen. Again featuring beautiful music, *Roadies* is a warm and lovely paean to the default family of a touring rock group. There is the lighting rigger Kelly Ann (Imogen Poots), who is torn between the tour group and film school, her twin Wes (Colson Baker), heartbroken because he is fired from Pearl Jam as a roadie, show-me-the-money accountant Reg (Rafe Spall) and Gooch (Luis Guzmán) the tour bus driver who feels Bob (Dylan) knew the truth.

If *Vinyl* celebrates the excesses of rock 'n' roll, complete with lush needle drops and a glorious wardrobe, of the 1970s, and *Roadies* looks at the challenges of getting a ginormous show on the road in times of consuming content on tiny screens, Netflix's *The Playlist* is a fictionalised look at the music streaming service, Spotify.

On the spot

The Swedish mini-series is based on Sven Carlsson and Jonas Leijonhufvud's non-fiction book, *Spotify Untold* and tells of the seismic shift in the music industry from six perspectives. There is 'The Vision' which speaks of a brilliant coder, Daniel Ek (Edvin Endre) who after selling off his company looks around for a new project and finds it in the lacuna created by the constant war between pirated streaming sites and the music industry. He seeks to fill the gap by creating a legal platform to share music.

'The Industry' is from the perspective of Per Sundin (Ulf Stenberg) an executive of Sony Music Sweden, while 'The Law' is from that of music licensing negotiator, Petra Hansson (Gizem Erdogan). 'The Coder' tells the story of Andreas Ehn, (Joel Lützow) Spotify's first employee, 'The Partner' is of Spotify co-founder and primary investor, Martin Lorentzon (Christian Hillborg) and the sixth and last episode is from the artiste's perspective with Bobbi Thomasson (Janice Kamya Kavander), a musician and Daniel's classmate, taking centre-stage.

Like all artistes, musicians come with a hefty dose of temperament and music, with its underlying caveat of celebrating bad behaviour, even more so. Where Peter Jackson's *The Beatles: Get Back* is a 468-minute love letter to the Beatles and their creativity, these shows reveal the business of the industry, which converts all the inspired cavorting of the beautiful people into cold, hard bank notes. As the psychedelic poets said, "Grab that cash with both hands and make a stash."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Some significant events occurred on April 7. Here is a quiz on observances, facts and everything else that happened on the day

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1
On Good Friday, which falls today this year, Christians observe the commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. How is the date for Good Friday determined every year?

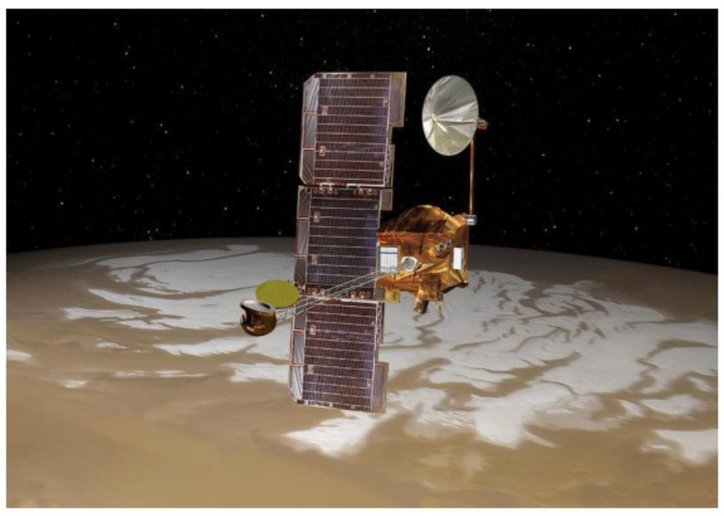
QUESTION 2
In honour of the founding of this organisation, April 7 is celebrated as World Health Day every year. Name the organisation, the year it was founded and the theme for the Health Day this year.

QUESTION 3
On this day, this cricketer hit the fastest ODI 50 against Pakistan. However, the record is now held by another cricketer. Name both players.

QUESTION 4
The legendary actor and director Jackie Chan celebrates his 69th birthday today. Which is the Pokémon named after the noted actor?

QUESTION 5
This scientist is well known for making many important discoveries in molecular biophysics, especially in the study of protein structure. He was deeply influenced by C.V. Raman. He passed away on April 7, 2001. Name the scientist.

QUESTION 6
The U.S. celebrates this day as National Beer Day as an Act was signed into law reversing the prohibition on selling beer in the country. Name the Act and the President who signed it.



Visual question:
Launched on this day, this spacecraft is NASA's longest-lasting spacecraft on Mars. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The number of neutrons this newly discovered uranium isotope has. **Ans: 149**
2. The second-most abundant actinide element. **Ans: Thorium**
3. The only actinide named after two continents. **Ans: Americium**
4. The element with the highest 'magic number'. **Ans: Lead**
5. Scientists estimate the age of dead organic matter by measuring how much _____ it absorbed when alive. **Ans: Carbon-14**
Visual: Identify this man. **Ans: Henri Becquerel; the SI unit of radioactivity is named after him**
Early Birds: P. N. Moorthy| M. Suresh Kumar| Abhishek Sarkar| Imtiaz Ahmed

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. L. A. Ramanathan, Defence Food Laboratory, Mysore, wants to know the difference between 'normalcy' and 'normality'."

"They mean the same. 'Normality' is the widely accepted word. 'Normalcy' was first recorded in 1859. But it was not widely used. Warren G. Harding, who was the 29th President of the United States, used it in his Presidential campaign and gave it a new life. "America's present need is not heroics but healing; not nostrums but normalcy; not revolution but restoration". The word has found acceptance in the United States. But in Britain it is not looked on with favour by purists. All the same, it is creeping into British English."

"Ms. Debi Mukhopadyay, Calcutta, wants to know the difference between 'impulsive' and 'impetuous'."

"They can be applied to both people and action. 'Impulsive' can be used in a good sense and also in a bad sense. 'Impulsive' action is action motivated by 'impulse'. 'Impulsive action' is action done without thinking.

You must be careful with him. He is an impulsive person.

John is noted for his impulsive generosity.

'Impetuous' has a connotation of rashness, recklessness. The word always carries a bad connotation.

His impetuous action had disastrous consequences.

He is an impetuous person."

"Mr. A. R. Kidwai, Ghaziabad, wants to know the meaning of 'spoonerism'."

" 'Spoonerism' is an 'accidental or deliberate transposition of initial letters of two or more words while speaking'.

You have hissed the mystery lectures.

What the speaker wanted to say was 'you have missed the history lectures'. Sometimes it is done deliberately for humorous effect. Some more examples: 'Well-boiled icicle' instead of 'Well-oiled bicycle'. 'Thud and blunder' instead of 'blood and thunder'. 'You have tasted two worms' instead of 'You have wasted two terms'. 'Let me sew you to your sheet' instead of 'Let me show you to your seat'. 'It was a blushing crow' instead of 'It was a crushing blow'. Rev. Williams Archibald Spooner (1844-1930) was a distinguished Anglican clergyman and Warden, New College, Oxford. He was a pleasant man, but rather nervous. While speaking, he used to make the kind of errors listed here. Such errors are called 'spoonerisms'."

"Ms. Srimathi, Vidyaranyapuram, wants to know the pronunciation of 'colleague'."

"The 'o' in the word is pronounced like the 'o' in 'got' 'hot'; 'ea' is pronounced like the 'ea' in 'mean', 'meat'; 'g' is pronounced like the 'g' in 'go', 'ue' is silent. The stress is on the first syllable. 'Colleague' means 'a fellow official or worker, specially in a profession or business'."

Published in The Hindu on July 28, 1987.

Word of the day

Firebrand:
someone who deliberately foments trouble; a piece of wood that has been burned or is burning

Synonyms: inciter, instigant, instigator, provoker

Usage: *My firebrand friend almost got arrested last night.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/firebrandpro

International Phonetic Alphabetic: /faɪəˌbrænd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

BMTC operating 396 metro feeder trips between K.R. Pura and Baiyappanahalli stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has started metro feeder ordinary and Vajra Air Condition (AC) bus service between Baiyappanahalli and K.R. Pura for passengers using the newly opened Whitefield metro line.

The BMTC in a release on Thursday said that eight ordinary buses (route number- MF FDR-1) and eight Vajra A/C buses (route number -V-MF-1K) will ply between the two metro stations via Benniganahalli.

The ordinary bus services will start from 5.50 a.m. from Baiyappanahalli metro station till 10.20 p.m. and from K.R. Pura metro station the service will start from 6.05 a.m. till 10.40 p.m.

The AC bus service will start from 6.30 a.m. from Baiyappanahalli metro station till 9.40 p.m. and from K.R. Pura metro station the service will start from 6.05 a.m. to 9.15 p.m., according to release.

The BMTC has said that eight ordinary buses and eight Vajra AC buses will ply between the two metro stations via Benniganahalli. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The ordinary bus service will have 262 trips daily with five minutes of frequency while the Vajra service will have 134 trips, daily with 10 to 15 minutes of frequency.

A BMTC official said, "We are exclusively running feeder services for the benefit of metro passengers between two stations. Every day, 7,000 to 8,000 metro passengers use feeder services to reach the metro stations."

After the inauguration of the line, metro passengers demanded that the authorities introduce a robust feeder service between Baiyappanahalli and K.R. Pura stations. They also demanded the introduction of feeder services from the newly opened stations between K.R. Pura and Whitefield to various destinations.

Daily footfall

Meanwhile, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials said that the newly inaugurated metro line is being used by 23,000 to 24,000 passengers per day.

The footfall is higher on weekends compared to weekdays. The highest number of passengers (27,544) travelled on April 1 (Saturday) after the opening of the line.

Amul's plan to enter city market ruffles feathers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The milk industry behemoth Amul's announcement of their plan to enter the Bengaluru market to supply milk and curd through online portals has ruffled the feathers of Kannadigas on social media, where users used #gobackAMUL hashtag on Thursday.

The announcement by Amul on Wednesday was being seen as another attempt to trample upon KMF, especially when the political narrative is being built around the merger of Amul and KMF.

Sources said Amul, through its offer, could be targeting the North Indian population, but the KMF is confident of meeting the challenge. While KMF markets its Nandini-toned milk at ₹39 a litre, Amul prices its toned milk at ₹54 a litre. Amul is expected to procure milk from Andhra Pradesh to supply in Bengaluru.

CCB to probe threat letter to Sudeep

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch took over the case of a threat letter sent to actor Sudeep.

The police have zeroed in on the suspect who had posted the letter at a letter box situated near Domlur water tank on March 4, sources said.

The police are also probing the professional rivalry angle and keeping tab on a few people in the film industry and also former staff of Mr. Sudeep.

The letter addressed to the actor using abusive words was received by the caretaker of the family. Manjunath, representing Mr. Sudeep's family, said this was a conspiracy to tarnish the image of the actor.

भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India)
(Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008)

Advt. No. IMU-HQ/R/13/30/2/2020-Estt.-(R) Date: 07.04.2023

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR CONTRACT ENGAGEMENT

Indian Maritime University –Headquarters invites suitable candidates for walk-in-interview for the following posts **on contract basis:**

Consultant (Civil Engineering- on contract) (01 Position)

Eligibility and Other Instructions	Visit website (www.imu.edu.in)
Date of Walk in Interview	**10.04.2023- 10.00 AM**
Consolidated Emoluments [Commensurate with experience]	**Rs. 77,500/- per month (Maximum)**
Contract period	Initially for a period of six months, which may be extended for further period based on performance and requirement.

- Eligibility criteria for the post and other details can be obtained from **www.imu.edu.in**.
- Eligible Candidates are requested to participate in Walk in Interview process directly on the scheduled date.
- Candidates should ensure that he / she fulfills all the eligibility criteria for the said post before appearing for the Walk-in-Interview.
- No TA/DA will be paid to the candidates to attend Walk-in-interview.

-Sd-
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Don't just take our word for it! Take the case of M.V. Sowmya who has been the recipient of SPMF-Therapy for osteoarthritis in her knee. "I was not able to sleep due to the excruciating pain but now it has been three months since I took the treatment, and I am able to walk for more than an hour without pain. I am able to do my regular exercises too all thanks to the staff at SBF who are extremely helpful and supportive."

K V Girija Jayaram too echoes similar sentiments. "I was suffering from acute knee pain and was advised surgery, but I decided to go to SBF Healthcare. There was tremendous improvement in the pain and even today after 6 years I feel a lot of relief."

www.sbfhealthcare.com

Dr. Nikhil Bharadwaj, Orthopaedic surgeon, vouches for his wife's mother: "My mother-in-law was suffering from severe pain due to OA. Both her knees needed treatment and she tried several other options including physiotherapy, but the results were not effective. We then opted for the three-week treatment at SBF Healthcare, and it yielded positive results. Today, she is pain free and is able to complete all her daily tasks with ease."

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'War on drugs' in Bengaluru

Number of cases related to narcotics offences has shot up since 2019, but most cases are against consumers

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
Imran Gowhar
BENGALURU

On March 24, Bengaluru City Police destroyed 4297.8 kg of narcotic drugs worth ₹90.8 crore, which they had seized in almost six months from October 2022 to that day, to mark the "Drug Disposal Day".

This included 4,110 kg of ganja/marijuana and 62.7 kg of MDMA crystals apart from 8,703 ecstasy tablets. This also served as a snapshot of the drug scene in Bengaluru. Ganja is the most widely used and seized narcotic, even as MDMA remains the most popular synthetic drug on the city's streets.

The tipping point

The sheer quantum of narcotics seized by the police in less than six months betrays a vigorous "war on drugs" that took off in 2019. While there were 286 cases booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, in 2018, 4,027 cases were booked in 2022.

The tipping point came in 2019, a senior police officer said. As part of a priority set by the Ministry of Home Affairs to go after narcotics across the country, the then Home Minister and now Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had then said "war against drugs" was his top priority.

Since then, even the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been roped in to fight the menace of narcotics and its alleged links to mafia and terror networks.

Police go after consumers

"Given that Union and State governments had made this their top priority, there was an unflinching focus on making drug busts like never before. A lot of human and financial resources were invested in the problem. This was the first time such an intense campaign was launched in the city. We learnt a lot of lessons during this campaign, whose momentum has sustained till date," said a senior police official who was part of the city police in 2019.

From 286 cases in 2018, police registered 768 drug cases in 2019, which peaked during the pandemic at 4,555 cases in 2021 to see a dip in 2022 to 4,027 cases. While a definite improvement in enforcement notwithstanding, the data hide more than it shows.

Most of the cases registered under NDPS Act, 1985 since 2019 are against consumers who are mostly let off with a fine of ₹10,000 or may face imprisonment up to six months in rare cases.

In 2017 and 2018, cases against consumers accounted for less than 0.1% of the total number of cases - 2 against consumers and 352 against peddlers in 2017 and 2 against consumers and 284 against peddlers in 2018.

However, come 2019, this ratio changed – of the total 768 cases registered that year, 467 (over 60%) were against consumers and 301 against peddlers. In 2022, over 85% of the cases registered were against peddlers.

During 2017-22 the number of cases against peddlers increased by just over 64%, while the number of cases against consumers shot up from 2 to 3448.

Tracking the peddler

A senior official part of the team that led the crackdown in 2019 defended the changed strategy.

"More than wanting to target and punish consumers, we decided to go after them to build the chain up to the peddlers, and the strategy has evidently paid off. Even the mobile phone of a single consumer provides us with several leads to track the entire network. The starting point of most of our drug busts today is consumers. Since consuming narcotics is also a crime, we book them too. But they are often let off with a fine," the officer said.

However, it can be recalled that Kannada film actors Ragini Dwivedi and Sanjana Galrani had to spend many months in prison after they were arrested on charges of consumption, drawing the ire of many. A senior official said the case against the two actors effectively disrupted a "drug-fuelled party ecosystem" in the city.

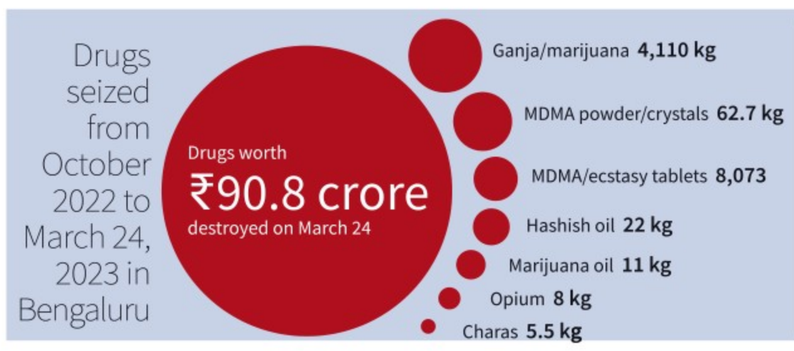
In the case, city police also used the new technology to test for drug consumption by testing the hair roots. "This method has proved extremely effective as the test can not only confirm drug consumption in the past year but also which drug was consumed," a senior official said, adding it was being used more and more on consumers to good results.

Drugs worth ₹90.8 crore seized by Bengaluru police which were subsequently destroyed. FILE PHOTO

Ganja and other drugs, which were seized by the police, being burned. FILE PHOTO

Trends in the fight against drugs in Bengaluru

- Until 2018, police mostly focused on peddlers and did not book consumers. Cases against consumers made up for 0.06% of all the total NDPS Act cases booked in 2018
- From 2019, police started booking consumers. In 2022, cases against consumers made up over 85% of the total NDPS Act cases booked
- The most commonly used and seized drug in the city is ganja or marijuana. Ganja is sourced from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Kerala
- Next comes MDMA/ecstasy consumed in powder, crystal, or tablet form. The drug is usually sourced from Delhi, Mumbai, and Goa
- Use of darknet and cryptocurrencies by customers poses a tough challenge for the police
- In most of the cases where peddlers are arrested, the police have failed to identify the source, and bring them to book
- In 2022, for the first time, three habitual peddlers were booked under the draconian Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, which allows for detention for longer durations and attachment of their properties



GROWING DRUG TRADE

	Total cases under NDPS Act, 1985	Possession of drugs for personal use	Possession of drugs for trafficking	Percentage of cases booked against users
2017	354	2	352	0.05
2018	286	2	284	0.06
2019	768	467	301	60.8
2020	2,766	2,305	461	83.3
2021	4,555	3,864	691	84.8
2022	4,027	3,448	579	85.6

Source: NCRB and Bengaluru City Police

> More than wanting to target and punish consumers, we decided to go after them to build the chain up to the peddlers, and the strategy has evidently paid off. Even the mobile phone of a single consumer provides us with several leads to track the entire network.
> **POLICE OFFICIAL**

Challenges in the fight

Police officials maintain that consumers are not their focus, but they remain the best route to reach peddlers and track down their networks. Officers part of the Anti Narcotics Wing, Central Crime Branch themselves admit that while they are able to nab some of the peddlers – mostly the last link on the city's streets – they haven't had much success with tracking down and dismantling the source of these narcotics as most of these are outside the State and the country.

For instance, marijuana is sourced from Visakhapatnam of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, apart from parts of Kerala of late. "We have been coordinating with agencies, especially in the Visakhapatnam range, who are also doing their best efforts to curb growing of ganja there. However, it is a challenging topography, and there are no other economic opportunities in the region, making it a pestering problem," a senior official said.

Darknet

More challenging has been the effort to track and dismantle networks pushing synthetic drugs. "This segment of the narcotics trade offers multiple challenges – involvement of African nationals and procurement of drugs from the darknet," the officer who led the charge in 2019 said.

In many cases, peddlers caught selling synthetic drugs like MDMA crystals, ecstasy tablets, LSD strips, or cocaine have either directly procured them from the darknet or bought it from peddlers in Delhi, Mumbai and Goa, who in turn would have most probably bought it off the darknet, officials said. "On a rough estimate, over 80% of the synthetic drugs we recover are sourced through the darknet," an official said.

Darknet offers anonymity and allows for lone wolf operators, creating very decentralised, diffused networks unconnected from each other. Payments are mostly made in cryptocurrencies, and the source of the narcotics is mostly anonymous and abroad.

"We presently have no technology to carry out surveillance on the darknet and intercept trade there," an official well-versed with cybercrime said. So the city police have been focusing on intercepting these parcels when it jumps from the virtual to the real world – at the delivery stage.

"We have charge-sheeted five officials at foreign post offices for colluding with drug importers. We have stepped up our surveillance at these delivery points where the darknet orders turn into material reality that can be intercepted. But we do not have any means to control the trade on the darknet. What we are catching may only be the tip of the iceberg of the quantum of narcotics import via the darknet," a senior official said.

Encrypted platforms

Making these busts have also become a challenge increasingly as peddlers are also adapting to technology extensively. For instance, in many cases, peddlers place drugs in locations across the city and share the location of the drug on encrypted messaging platforms sitting outside the state. Meanwhile, drugs that cross the border of Punjab from the Af-Pak region also make their way to the city, tackling which is beyond the realm of the city police.

The widespread involvement of African nationals in the synthetic drug trade poses its own challenges. "Most of them we catch are without proper documents and are overstaying. The best way to curtail their activities in the country is to deport them. However, as they are booked under NDPS Act, they cannot be deported till the cases are settled, which takes many years. Meanwhile, they secure bail, come out and revert to peddling drugs," a senior official said.

Tougher law

To control the menace of habitual peddlers, city police have started booking habitual peddlers under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, under which habitual offenders can be detained for one year without bail and attach their assets.

Given the challenges involved in tracking down and dismantling these networks, including jurisdictional issues, sufficient human resources and time are not invested in these facets of the war on drugs, which provide long-term benefits.

"Given Bengaluru is a global city, with a vibrant middle class with considerable disposable income and pub culture, there will always be a market demand for narcotics in the city. If the supply source is not neutralised, narcotics will keep flooding the city. This is a constant fight, and we need to be ever-vigilant. But we need to step up and graduate to try and take down the source of narcotics," said an official with considerable experience fighting narcotics in the city.

'Young, educated population with disposable income prime target for drug dealers'

GUEST COLUMN

C.K. Baba

Once known as the 'Garden City' and 'Pensioner's Paradise,' Bengaluru is now witnessing a growing problem -- narcotics trade. The illegal market is thriving, and drug busts have become common in the last three years.

The rise of the narcotics trade in Bengaluru can be attributed to various factors. One of the primary reasons is the city's position as a major hub for the tech industry. The population is young and educated, with a high disposable income. This demographic is particularly vulnerable to drug abuse and has become a prime target for drug dealers.

Another reason is the porous border between Karnataka and neighbouring States, particularly Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. The city's location at the crossroads of several major highways makes it a hub for drug trafficking, with suppliers and consumers coming from across the country.

The most commonly traded narcotics in Bengaluru are cannabis, known locally as ganja, and synthetic drugs like MDMA and LSD. The majority of consumers are young adults in their 20s and 30s, with a significant number of college students and IT professionals among them.

The modus operandi of drug dealers is constantly evolving, and there are many to deal with, making it difficult for law enforcement agencies to keep up with their numbers. The most common methods include smuggling drugs into the city in small quantities through various means, including couriers, postal services, and private vehicles. Once the drugs arrive, they are distributed through a network of dealers across the city. Many a time, they misuse app-based online service delivery, and the payment is made through commonly available unified payments interface (UPI) gateways.

Despite the challenges posed by the constantly evolving modus operandi of drug dealers, law enforcement agencies have been conducting several drug busts regularly in the last three years. The data show that the Bengaluru city police have taken a tough stance on narcotics and drug trafficking in recent years. The number of cases booked and drugs seized increased significantly between 2020 and 2022.

In 2020, the police booked 2,766 cases, recovered 3,912.826 kg of drugs, and arrested 3,673 people, including peddlers and consumers. The total worth of the drugs seized was ₹21.4 crore.

In 2021, the number of cases booked increased to 4,555, while the quantity of drugs seized decreased to 3,705.574 kg.

Moreover, the number of people arrested increased to 5,753, which shows that the police could target a more extensive network of drug dealers and consumers. The total worth of the drugs seized also increased significantly to ₹60.1 crore. In 2022, the police booked 4,027 cases and seized 4,228.44 kg of drugs. The number of people arrested was 5,215, including peddlers and consumers.

The total worth of the drugs seized increased significantly to ₹92.7 crore. The last three years' data show that there is an increase in drug trafficking-related crime, while equally responsive police have continued to take a tough stance on drug trafficking in the city and are targeting the networks of drug dealers.

The police in Bengaluru have been conducting regular raids on dens and tracking the movements of known dealers. They work closely with their counterparts in neighbouring States to coordinate their efforts and share intelligence. The police have been monitoring the peddlers and consumers of narcotics through various means, including surveillance and undercover operations.

(The writer is Deputy Commissioner of Police South-East Division, Bengaluru City Police)

End game Attila Csihar of Mayhem in action. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Attila Csihar of Norway's black metal veterans Mayhem, who performed recently in Bengaluru, says Black Metal cannot be commercial

A man of Mayhem

Anurag Tagat

At a pub in south Bengaluru, Attila Csihar orders an "Ayurvedic beer," which he drinks with a bemused expression as he talks about finally being in India after spending a lot of his youth reading about mythology from the country. "This is just my first day in India and it reminds me of Egypt in some ways," he says.

The 52-year-old had India on his mind when he read the *Bhagavad Gita* and *Ramayana* about 30 years ago. "Even during the lockdown, I watched the *Mahabharata* and that was 250 episodes long," Csihar says. Less than 24 hours prior to our interview, the artist was on stage at Bangalore Open Air, as vocalist of legendary black metal band Mayhem.

As a group that had a tumultuous history that arguably changed music in Norway and extreme music in the world, Mayhem's early period was marred by murder, suicide and church burnings. Csihar, during that time, was a relatively new entrant to Mayhem, brought in from Hungary and known for his work with the band Tormentor. "I was not there all the time when it happened," he says.

Mayhem's debut album, *De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas,* came out in 1994 and by 1995, the band was putting a lot in the rearview mirror. Csihar only returned in 2004, performing on albums such as *Ordo ad Chao, Esoteric Warfare* and most recently, *Daemon*.

"We don't just rely on our past. All the records have some story and Mayhem doesn't have that many records for a 30 to 40-year history," the vocalist says. His personal belief is that Black Metal cannot be commercial. "It should always be challenging. For the listener, it should be extreme."

At Bangalore Open Air, Mayhem ran through a career-spanning set, playing out in multiple acts with costume changes and the entire stage backdrop artwork changing as well. Photos show Csihar in multiple avatars, from a hooded and masked figure to grotesque face paint and more. The vocalist says about being on stage, "To me, it's a performance but it's also a spiritual act. Every night, I feel a little bit of magic as if I'm channeling something." He feeds off the attention, gesturing wildly and dangerously, sometimes also standing around his band members.

> *It's hard for me to imagine singing about politics or social problems. I'm always about the other world.*
>
> ATTILA CSIHAR

A part of several other projects across genres, Csihar performs black metal with Tormentor, has his own project, Void ov Voices, and has been a vocalist with drone band Sun O))). Influenced by experimental, electronic music, the artist reveals he has a new project coming up with Canadian musician Rhys Fulber, who is best known for his work in industrial act, Front Line Assembly.

It all helps Csihar find different ways to express his understanding and thoughts of the dark aspect of nature. "It's esoteric and spiritual, always."

Thematically, then, the artist always has specific concerns when he gets down to writing lyrics.

"It's hard for me to imagine singing about politics or social problems. I'm always about the other world. I think we all have one thing in common – death. We're all going to die, so life has no meaning in a way, unless you find a spiritual and transcendental meaning. Like how we all came from one cell," he says at one point.

Csihar and Mayhem's India appearance marked a break in their long touring days across the world, one that was delayed due to the pandemic. He is spending a few weeks soaking in everything he wants to about India and hopes to return with one of his other projects.

Tormentor is back in full swing and their album *Anno Domini* is also considered an early black metal classic record from 1988. He is also into Hi-Fi audio, so he has started a cable company with an electric engineer. "Music is literally my life. It's that and family for me."

R B Bhaskaran retrospective

Life in colour Couple by artist R B Bhaskaran. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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Art history comes alive when you are with Chennai-based artist R B Bhaskaran. As a frontrunner of the Madras Art Movement, Bhaskaran has not only witnessed the evolution of art in the country but also the shift in the way society views artists.

He talks about a time when cities hardly had a single gallery to showcase the works of artists, whether up-and-coming or established. "My first show in Bangalore was in the late 60s, at Kritika Art Gallery on St Mark's Road, run by Mrs Dayaram. At the time, her small place was the only space where an out-of-state artist could display his work to the people of Karnataka. There's a huge difference now, both here and in other cities," he says.

There certainly is. Spilling onto multiple halls, as many as 197 works by the artist are on display at Chitrakala Parishath. People, profiles and the fluid feline form, in vivid colour and varied poses and shapes, vie for attention.

"I was doing a demo of a cat for my students. Cat lovers and people who loved my depiction, encouraged me to work on them. The other thing that captured my imagination was wedding photographs on display in peoples' homes," says the artist, talking about recurring forms in his work.

The retrospective on R B Bhaskaran will be on at Chitrakala Parishad till April 9.

Celebration of mime and theatre

The festival is aimed at promoting mime and encouraging children to take to theatre

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Ekalavya Performing Arts (EPA), a theatre group in Bengaluru, presents Kalakriti 2023 – a collage of mimes and drama – directed and designed by theatre actor and director Bodhisatta Sarkar. The two-part festival is called *Mute and Unmute*. "Some parts are mime and others theatre," explains the director. The mime will be presented by Suvendu Mukhopadhyay, which will be followed by the staging of a Bengali play, *Juddhobaj*.

"The play is a socio-political satire on war and its effect. We started without a fixed text and devised it through workshops. We experimented by bringing aspects of proscenium theatre and mime into street theatre format."

Bodhisatta says there will be three mime acts by EPA, depicting different facets of our modern society. "Suvendu is one of the best mime artistes in India and this is his first show in Bengaluru."

EPA was formed in 2020 during COVID-19. "We created mimes, short films and cultural programmes and shared them on our social media platforms," says Bodhisatta, whose theatre journey started when he was nine years old.

"I was influenced by my father who was an active theatre member. I started with mime. I came to Bengaluru in 2010 and was involved in Bengali theatre here. In 2015, a few friends and I came together and started EPA. The aim was to have a mime and theatre festival every year, which we could not achieve due to the lockdown. Now that life is back to normal, we decided to present Kalakriti 2023."

The aim, he adds, is to promote mime as it is an art form that is not nurtured here. "We wanted to do something experimental and the second mission was to present children to the theatre. Children who are members of EPA will also be performing at Kalakriti 2023".

Kalakriti 2023 will be presented at Alliance Francaise on April 9, 4pm onwards. Tickets, ₹300 and ₹500, available on BookMyshow and EPA facebook page.

Stage for all Bodhisatta Sarkar encourages children to take to theatre and (above) a still from a rehearsal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Comfort zone

On its seventh anniversary, artists talk about their connection with Lahe Lahe

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Rajkumar Nihalani first heard about Lahe Lahe in HAL when he moved to Bengaluru from his hometown, Ahmedabad, in 2019. He had been looking for this kind of space for a long time – one that fosters a social community, a space that does not judge, a space where he can feel free. Soon, Rajkumar became a regular at Lahe Lahe, attending many of the events it hosted. He grew so attached to the space that when his office shifted from MG Road to Electronic City – about 20 km from his house in Indiranagar, he chose to stay in Indiranagar. He did not mind the long commute; he wanted to be as close to Lahe Lahe as possible. Then, last July, he was transferred to Thane, Mumbai. He did not mind the city but missed Lahe Lahe. "I couldn't find another place like that," he says.

Fortunately, his company recently transferred him back to Bengaluru. And Rajkumar cannot wait to reunite with Lahe Lahe.

Art from the heart A pottery session at Lahe Lahe. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Why does he like it so much? "I can be myself. I am a 47-year-old guy. I can go there for a salsa workshop or learn bhangra. It's like..." he pauses a few seconds to find the right words: "You feel at home."

It is precisely how Mansee and Nikhil Thard wanted people to feel at the space when they created Lahe Lahe seven years ago.

The couple celebrated the seventh anniversary on April 1 with Lahe Lahe's regular patrons, recalling fond memories from the seven-year journey.

From a tiny terrace-only art space in 2016, Lahe Lahe has grown into a 7,700 square foot community hub spread across three floors and a terrace that provides space for a wide range of activities. Apart from art, music and theatre, it hosts cinema screenings, storytelling sessions, dance and pottery workshops, poetry readings and other events. Though the space has grown over the years, it still creates a sense of intimacy.

Maya, who conducts pottery workshops at the space, reckons it nurtures collaborations among artists. "Since many artists share the same roof, new ideas emerge. For instance, I collaborate with someone who does mosaic art, which is close to pottery."

Aparna Jaishankar, a storyteller, reckons Lahe Lahe is more than just a space provider. "They nurture artists," she says. "They understand the artists and the audience. You just need to care about your content; they do the rest. Even if things go wrong, they have your back."

Lahe Lahe, she adds, also values the artist-audience interactions. "I've been lucky to talk to my audience after almost every performance. If you are just going separate ways after the performance, you aren't taking away much. Lahe Lahe understands this and allows that breathing space. They are never in a hurry."

After all, Lahe Lahe, in Assamese, means 'slowly, slowly', which is in deliberate disagreement with hustle culture. In a city that seems to be getting faster by the day, this little building, almost hidden in the HAL area, seems necessary.

STEPOUT

Poetry in motion

Vishwakiran Nambi Dance Company presents *Exordium* — a modern Indian dance theatre festival — as part of its biennial live dance experience.
The company will premier two performances — *Yele Oota* and *Jaaga Illa,* which will be followed by an outdoor aerial silk performance called *Chauka. On April 7 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall. Tickets at allevents.in.*

Music and art

SAUCE, a festival by Social, will have music, art, crypto and hype wear. Music lovers are in for a treat with performances by Parvaaz, Thaikkudam Bridge and Seedhe Maut. 'The Art Garden' will showcase the work of young visionaries headlined by Aaquib Wani. *On April 8 at Moongate Events Venue, Bengaluru. Tickets at insider.in.*

Meet the millets

The Organic World is organising a millet mela, 'Celebrate The Good Grain'. Apart from a wide range of millets, you can also get several ready-to-cook natural millet products. There will also be cooking competitions for children, talks by nutritionists and much more.
On April 1 to 30 at The Organic World stores in Bengaluru.

INBRIEF

Y.S.V. Datta denied Congress ticket from Kadur

Y.S.V. Datta, who recently switched over to the Congress from Janata Dal (S), has been denied the party ticket from Kadur constituency in Chikkamagaluru district. The Congress has chosen K.S. Anand instead. There were reports that Mr. Datta joined the Congress only after he was promised the party ticket. When *The Hindu* contacted him after the list was announced, Mr. Datta said he would not wish to comment on it now. "I will talk to my supporters and plan my next move."

Former Ministers Kimmane Rathnakar and B. Shivaramu have secured ticket to contest from Tirthahalli and Belur constituencies, respectively.

JD(S) defers second list

The Janata Dal (Secular), which was to have come out with its much-anticipated second list of candidates, including for the Hassan Assembly constituency, has deferred the announcement again. The former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy was touring in Periyapatna constituency. Party sources said the second list could come only after the Congress and the BJP finalise their candidates.

Election Commission makes seizures of over ₹77.93 crore

Since March 29 when the model code of conduct (MCC) came into force in Karnataka, the Election Commission (EC) has made seizures totalling ₹77.93 crore, including cash, liquor, drugs, and precious metals.

The EC seized cash and articles worth nearly ₹58 crore even before the elections were announced (from March 9 to 27).

After MCC came into force, the amount of cash seized was ₹27.38 crore, while liquor worth ₹26.38 crore, narcotics worth ₹87.89 lakh, precious metals worth ₹10.79 crore, and other items (freebies) worth ₹12.48 crore were seized, said a release from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Congress second list for 42 seats out; four party-hoppers given ticket

Suspense continues over candidate for Kolar; party to support Darshan Puttannaiah of Sarvodaya Karnataka Party in Melkote constituency

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Briefing: AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, KPCC president D.K. Shivkumar, and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing the press in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

The All India Congress Committee on Thursday announced its second list of 42 candidates for elections to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, scheduled for May 10.

The party has fielded four well-known faces who had recently quit the BJP and JD(S) and joined the Congress. N.Y. Gopalakrishna, Baburao Chinchansur, S.R. Srinivas, and V.S. Patil, who recently joined the Congress, have been given ticket from Molakalmur (Reserved), Gurmitkal, Gubbi, and Yellapur constituencies, respectively.

Five-time MLA Mr. Gopalakrishna contested on the BJP ticket from Kudligi in 2018 and won. He quit the BJP and joined the Congress last Monday. Supporters of Yogesh Babu, the defeated candidate in 2018, had staged a protest outside the KPCC office here opposing induction of Mr. Gopalakrishna.

Another five-time MLA, Mr. Chinchansur, who hails from the Koli community, quit the BJP a few days ago. Owing to differences with the M. Mallikarjun Kharge family, he had quit the Congress in 2018 and joined the BJP. He seems to have played a crucial role in the defeat of Mr. Kharge in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Karnataka Votes 2023

The Congress has extended its support to Darshan Puttannaiah of the Sarvodaya Karnataka Party in Melkote constituency.

In Chitradurga, the party has given the ticket to K.C. Veerendra, who quit the JD(S) and joined the Congress. In K.R. Pet, the party has fielded B.L. Devaraja, who was defeated as the JD(S) nominee in the 2019 bypoll.

The Congress had released its first list of 124 candidates on March 25. The party now has to announce candidates for the remaining 58 constituencies.

The suspense over Kolar candidate has continued as the Congress has not announced its nominee for the constituency. Mr. Siddaramaiah, who wants to contest from two constituencies, has sought the ticket from Kolar too. In the first list, Mr. Siddaramaiah's name was cleared from the Varuna constituency.

In Badami constituency, the party will field Bheemasen B. Chimmanakatti, son of the former MLA B.B. Chimmanakatti. It may be noted that Mr. Siddaramaiah had contested from Badami in 2018 and won against the BJP's B. Sriramulu by a narrow margin.

In Chamundeshwari constituency in Mysuru district, the party has fielded Sidde Gowda. Mr. Siddaramaiah lost in this constituency in 2018 against G.T. Deve Gowda of the JD(S).

Ex-Ministers

Several former Ministers have been given the ticket. They included Vinay Kulkarni (Dharwad), Santhosh S. Lad (Kalghatgi), H. Anjaneya (Holalkere - SC reserved), R.B. Thimmapur (Mudhol - SC reserved), H.Y. Meti (Bagalkot), and Iqbal Ansari (Gangavati).

In Channagiri constituency, the has party fielded Basavaraju V. Shivaganga. Channagiri BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa is under arrest in connection with an alleged bribe case. P. Ravi Kumar is the party's nominee in Mandya constituency.

In Bengaluru

The party has selected four candidates in constituencies in Bengaluru. While S. Balaraj Gowda will contest from Yeshwantpur, Keshava Murthy will contest from Mahalakshmi Layout. In 2018, Congress candidate S.T. Somashekar won the Yeshwantpur seat, but joined the BJP in 2019. In 2018, Minister K. Gopalaiah won the Mahalakshmi Layout seat on the JD(S) ticket, but joined the BJP in 2019 and won the seat in the bypoll. In Yelahanka constituency, Keshav Rajanna B. has been given the ticket. In Padmanabhanagar constituency, V. Raghunath Naidu will file his papers.

Besides Iqbal Ansari, the list contains two other Muslim candidates – Abdul Hameed Kajasaheb Mushrif (Vijayapura), and Iqbal Ahmed (Tumakuru).

Father, son to contest from different parties

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An interesting feature of the ensuing Karnataka Assembly elections is politically divided families. Two candidates from the same family are contesting elections from different parties.

The Congress has fielded Mantar Gowda, son of the former minister A. Manju from Madikeri constituency. Mr. Manju is the JD(S) nominee in Arkalgud in Hassan district. Ex-MLA for Arkalgud A.T. Ramaswamy quit the JD(S) and joined the BJP.

Two sons of ex-Chief Minister late N. Dharam Singh have been given ticket by the Congress. While Ajay Singh's name figured in the first list for contesting from Jewargi, his brother Vijay Dharam Singh is being fielded from Basavakalyan.

Election Commission to keep a close watch on social media campaigns

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Meena speaking at a workshop for journalists in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the wake of the continuing trend of political parties, candidates, and their supporters using social media in a big way, the Election Commission (EC) is keeping a close watch on such campaigns.

The EC has issued detailed guidelines for political advertisements on such platforms that include obtaining certification for contents before putting them in the public domain. It is mandatory for political parties and individual candidates to keep details of expenditure incurred on advertisements in social media and the expenses will be accounted for in the total election expenditure incurred by the candidates. Besides, all social networking sites have also been asked to maintain expenditure incurred by the political parties and individual candidates on social media advertisements, according to Suryasen A.V., Special Officer (Media, IT and SVEEP), in Karnataka.

Pre-certification

The EC directive will be applicable to a range of Internet-based social media which include Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. "The social networking sites should take pre-certification from Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMC) at the district and State levels. A special social media expert has been added in MCMC to monitor social media and report violations," he said, while addressing a workshop on media's role in the electoral process.

According to EC guidelines, candidates should furnish details of their social media accounts/handles at the time of filing nominations. "Any political content in the form of messages/comments/photos/videos posted/uploaded on the blogs/self accounts on websites/social media will not be treated as political advertisements and therefore would not require pre-certification. However, advertisements issued in e-paper shall invariably require pre-certification by the committee concerned. This is as part of the commission's efforts to address the problem of paid news," he said.

Social networking sites should take pre-certification from Media Certification and Monitoring Committees at district and State levels

WhatsApp

Pointing out that there was no clarity on whether to consider WhatsApp under the social media category as it was an individual messaging mobile application, the official said the Supreme Court's guidelines on the responsibilities of group admins will be followed. "Although it is difficult to monitor violations on WhatsApp, we are keeping an eye through shadow observers," he added.

To ensure free, fair and ethical use of social media platforms and maintain the integrity of the electoral process, the Internet and Mobile Association of India in consultation with the EC had developed a set of 'Voluntary Code of Ethics' for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The EC has appealed to the association to follow the voluntary code of ethics.

Media's role

Inaugurating the workshop, Chief Electoral Officer for Karnataka Manoj Kumar Meena said media played a vital role during elections and it was an essential part of the EC.

"Most of the time we get to know about violations of Model Code of Conduct happening at the grassroots level through the media based on which complaints are lodged. Media support is essential for the effective functioning of the Election Commission," Mr. Meena added.

All ears

Special day: Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Pralhad Joshi, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, senior BJP leaders Nalin Kumar Kateel and B.S. Yediyurappa listening to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's virtual address during the party's Foundation Day function in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

Nirmala: Party that imposed Emergency crying foul over 'misuse of Central agencies'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

She claims that Karnataka holds a special place for the BJP and the party has been 'responding best' to the needs of the people

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday hit out at the Opposition Congress and remarked that the party that imposed the Emergency was now crying foul that the BJP was misusing Central agencies.

At a press conference in Bengaluru, Ms. Sitharaman ridiculed the Congress for imposing the Emergency and suspending all civil rights in 1975.

"The BJP has a strong connect with Karnataka, as our leaders Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani were arrested and kept in Bengaluru during the Emergency. The Congress that arrested all the Opposition leaders, extended the term of the Lok Sabha illegally by a year during which time key amendments to our Constitution were passed. But the party is now crying foul that we are misusing Central agencies," she said. This comes a day after Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah alleged that "wary of defeat, the BJP had dispatched over 1,000 Income Tax and Enforcement Directorate officials to Karnataka to raid Congress leaders and candidates".

Fourteen Opposition parties, including the Congress, had to withdraw their public interest litigation over the alleged misuse of Central agencies to target them after the Chief Justice of India said politicians enjoyed no special immunity, on Wednesday.

Ms. Sitharaman, also a Rajya Sabha member elected from the State, claimed that Karnataka held a special place for the BJP and the party had been "responding best" to the needs of the people. "For instance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited Karnataka 32 times since 2015 and seven times already in 2023 alone," she said. She went on to list a series of infrastructure projects and investments made by the Union government in the State, including "over ₹1 lakh crore on highways", "unprecedented investments on railways", and "modernisation and mechanisation of Mangaluru port that will help import natural gas and bolster Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana".

She claimed the "double-engine BJP sarkara" had provided the State the benefit of a "good, well-planned economic development, without differentiating among people and by taking everybody along".

SC meet turns into platform for bashing Congress

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday dared Congress leaders to make their stand clear on whether or not they were in favour of increasing reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and providing internal reservation.

He was speaking at a 'felicitation programme for the State government' organised by the newly formed Parishista Jati Samudayagala Okkoota (Federation of SC communities) in Hubballi, which turned into a Congress-bashing event, with every speaker lambasting the party as being "anti-Dalit" .

Although BJP leaders had claimed that the event had been organised by the okkoota, the banner on the stage had photos of all the BJP leaders, the party symbol with the slogan 'BJP is the promise' and the advantage of 'double-engine sarkara'. However, an enquiry with election officials revealed that the party's district unit president Sanjay Kapatkar had taken permission for the event instead of the okkoota.

Mr. Bommai said for the last 70 years, the Congress had just treated Dalits as a vote bank and its social justice was only seen in speeches. "They (Congress) cheated you and disgraced Babasaheb Ambedkar by not giving space for his cremation at the Rajghat. They also cheated Jagjivan Ram and used him as a ladder for coming to power. Even now, the Congress is playing the game of cheating you by confusing you and misleading you on the reservation issue. The Congress has always followed the divide-and-rule policy, you better be beware of the party," he told the gathering of various SC communities.

On the statement by Congress leaders that internal reservation would be withdrawn when the party comes to power, Mr. Bommai warned: "There will be a revolution if you dare to touch the issue."

The former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa lambasted the Congress and appealed to people to visit households to convey the message of what the BJP had done for the SC communities. Other BJP leaders such as Pralhad Joshi, A. Narayanaswamy, Jagadish Shettar and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy too criticised Congress.

Yediyurappa makes a *faux pas*

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted to make Babu Jagjivan Ram the Prime Minister but the Congress did not allow it to happen," the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa made this statement much to the surprise of those sitting on the stage at a felicitation ceremony organised in Hubballi on Thursday.

He was referring to the alleged ill-treatment of Dalit leaders, including B.R. Ambedkar, by the Congress, when he made this statement. And, even as those on the stage had a surprising look on their face, Mr. Yediyurappa continued with his speech without realising the *faux pas*.

Cong. veteran Antony's son Anil joins BJP

Union Minister Piyush Goyal describes the newcomer to the party as a 'very grounded political worker'; the former head of the Kerala Congress digital media cell had quit after criticising the party's stand on the controversial documentary film of the BBC on Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anil Antony, former head of the Kerala Congress digital media cell and son of former Defence Minister A.K. Antony joined the BJP in the presence of Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and V. Muraleedharan at the BJP's national headquarters in New Delhi.

He had quit the Congress after criticising the party's stand on the controversial documentary film of the BBC on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He had termed BBC as "a state-sponsored channel with a long history of prejudices" against India, after which, he said, he had received threats as well.

"Despite large differences with the BJP, I think those in India placing views of BBC, a U.K. state-sponsored channel with a long history of prejudices, and of Jack Straw, the brain behind the Iraq war, over Indian institutions is setting a dangerous precedence, will undermine our sovereignty," Mr. Antony had tweeted.

Welcoming Mr. Antony to the BJP, Mr. Goyal described him as a "very grounded political worker", who was convinced that the BJP cares for the country and shared the Prime Minister's vision of sustainable growth.

New platform: Anil Antony, son of Congress veteran A.K. Antony, with Union Minister Piyush Goyal after he joined the BJP. PTI

On his part, Mr. Antony explained his switching of parties as having taken "the right step." "This is not about personalities, this is about difference of opinion and ideas. I strongly believe that I have taken the right step. My respect for my father will remain the same," Mr. Antony said when asked whether he had consulted his father before joining the BJP.

Anil's decision has pained me: Antony

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

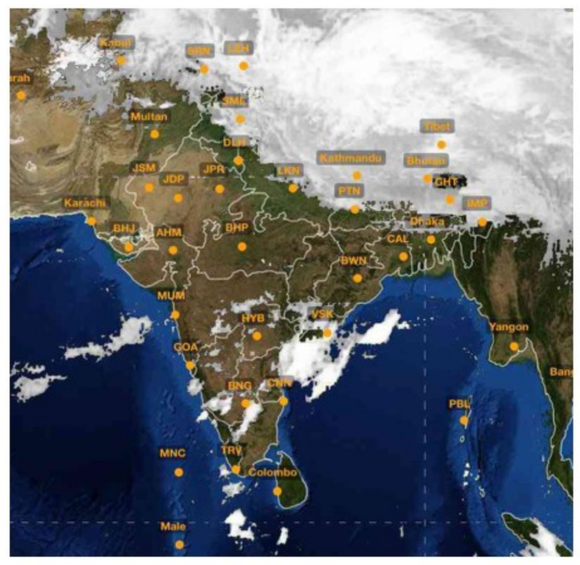
Flanked by party workers and mobbed by a phalanx of television cameras outside the Indira Bhavan on Thursday, A.K. Antony disavowed his son's decision to defect to the Bharatiya Janata Party and underscored his fealty to the Nehru family. "Anil's erroneous decision has pained me. I am 82 and in the autumn of my life. I do not desire to live longer. And I will die a Congress person," Mr. Antony said.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president K. Sudhakaran said, "Maundy Thursday marks the Last Supper and the arrest of Lord Christ. Betrayals are not unusual on such bleak days."

Communist Party of India (Marxist) State secretary M.V. Govindan said the ideological line between the Congress and the BJP was thin, making switching sides easy.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Hailstorm/thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathawada, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.6	34.2	24.0	Kozhikode	—	35.8	27.4
Ahmedabad	—	37.9	23.6	Kurnool	—	40.5	28.3
Aizawl	11	32.6	16.7	Lucknow	—	34.7	16.7
Allahabad	—	37.2	18.4	Madurai	—	38.0	24.5
Bengaluru	—	33.9	22.7	Mangaluru	—	34.4	24.2
Bhopal	—	—	19.2	Mumbai	—	34.2	22.8
Bhubaneswar	0.1	37.6	25.6	Mysuru	—	35.7	21.4
Chandigarh	—	30.7	17.6	New Delhi	—	33.5	17.2
Chennai	—	34.6	27.5	Patna	—	37.6	18.2
Coimbatore	—	36.0	24.6	Port Blair	—	32.3	24.3
Dehradun	—	30.9	15.0	Puducherry	—	35.2	25.3
Gangtok	10	20.1	11.4	Pune	—	36.9	21.6
Goa	—	32.5	23.4	Raipur	—	37.5	22.0
Guwahati	—	32.0	18.2	Ranchi	—	34.2	19.3
Hubballi	—	38.0	23.0	Shillong	0.4	23.6	12.0
Hyderabad	3	35.5	24.2	Shimla	—	19.4	8.3
Imphal	10	29.2	15.6	Srinagar	3	17.3	6.3
Jaipur	—	33.0	20.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.9	25.2
Kochi	—	32.4	27.2	Tiruchi	—	37.7	26.6
Kohima	—	23.5	13.5	Vijayawada	83	36.3	26.2
Kolkata	—	36.5	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	27.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	27	28	132	124	
Bengaluru	13	31	20	59	88	
Chennai	3	45	104	40	37	
Delhi	14	51	34	211	204	
Hyderabad	6	29	49	107	124	
Kolkata	13	40	106	116	119	
Lucknow	29	59	33	162	116	
Mumbai	7	—	58	199	152	
Pune	101	137	114	141	98	
Visakhapatnam	18	40	41	38	75	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Munger, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 278 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Silchar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

AAP's plea for 'national party' status will be decided before April 13, EC tells Karnataka HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Thursday told the High Court of Karnataka that it will decide the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) application for the grant of 'national party' status before April 13, the date for issuing the gazette notification for the elections to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

Recording this submission made on behalf of the EC, a Bench of Justice M. Nagaprasanna disposed of a petition filed by the AAP, which had sought a direction to the EC for considering its application, filed in December 2022, for grant of the 'national party' status.

The court asked the ECI to ensure that the decision

on the petitioner's application was taken before April 13.

In its petition, the AAP has said that it is appreciable that the EC, in its official press release dated March 29, 2023, already mentioned that "the issue of the AAP being granted the status of a national party is being received", but the issue is pending consideration since December 2022. It has been contended in the petition that the EC already has in its possession a statement showing the number of votes polled by the party in the State elections concerned, which clearly elucidates that the performance of the AAP at the polls makes it eligible for recognition as a 'national party' under Clause 6B of The Election Symbols (Reservation And Allotment) Order, 1968.

Pointing out that it had also sent a reminder to the ECI in March 2023 on its application, the AAP had said the ECI had so far not responded to both these communications on grant of the 'national party' status despite the party having met the eligibility for grant of such a status.

However, the counsel for the EC told the court that the application was under active consideration and the commission would take a decision on the AAP's application before April 13.

M.B. Patil doubts BJP's sincerity on reservation

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Chairperson of the Congress campaign committee in Karnataka, M.B. Patil, has termed the State BJP government's reservation rejig as "unconvincing" to the communities it is aimed at, pointing out that any changes in reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes comes under the 9th schedule and needs to be cleared by Parliament.

"If the BJP was so sincere in providing internal reservations for SC&ST communities, they should have moved sooner, since the matter comes under the 9th Schedule of the Constitution and needs to be cleared by Parliament. The BJP keeps talking of 'double-engine' government, this was a perfect opportunity for them to demonstrate their sincerity and the advantage of the fact that their party has a majority in Parliament as well," he told *The Hindu*.

The BJP is hoping that the internal reservations within the SC category notified by the party's government in Karnataka will help consolidate several communities on its side, especially what are termed as 'Left' category within the SCs, like the Madiga community. After first hiking the total reservations available to the SC community from 15% to 17%, the recasting of internal reservations is interesting. The SC (Left) category which consists of 29 communities will get 6% internal reservations while SC (Right), with 25 communities will get 5.5%. The other categories, the 'Touchable' communities like Lambani (Banjara) and Bhovis will get 4.5% of the quota and others will get 1%.

Mr. Patil, however, says that communities like the Madigas who belong to the SC (Left) category had earlier voted for the BJP with the Congress winning only one out of the nine seats where Madiga votes make a difference. "This time, in fact, we will see a 50-50 split," he said. With regard to the SC (Right) communities, he said that the election of Mallikarjun Kharge as the national president of the Congress will reinforce the party's support base among these communities. Among the "touchable" communities, there has been some discontent among the Lambani and Bhovi over internal reservation.

Mr. Patil, emphasised that even the Lingayats who got additional 2% reservation after the 4% quota for Muslims was scrapped are not exactly singing the BJP's praises.

Healthcare programme

The Hindu Bureau
LINGAMGUNTLA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Family Doctor' programme here on Thursday, under which qualified doctors in 10,032 YSR Village Health Clinics (VHCs) would extend preventive healthcare to the needy people across the State.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. NO. 25448/2022
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
And
Ms. Lathifa Bi & Another ...Defendants
Summons To Defendants
1. Ms. Lathifa Bi, D/o. Mr. Sulthan Mohiddin, Aged About 60 Years, No. 106,Colombia Celest, 1A Puttenahalli Main Road, JP Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078.
2. Mr. Mohammed Iqbal S/o. Mr. Karim Mohammed Ibrahim, Aged About 65 years, No. 106, Colombia Celest, 1A Puttenahalli Main Road, JP Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078.
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 14,87,254.76/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Four and Paise Seventy Six Only),** apart from future interest of **12.06% p.a.,** in **O.S. No. 25448/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-20, Before 26th Addl. City Civil & Sessions Court Mayohall, Bengaluru.**
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **22nd day of May, 2023 at 11 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court this the 29th Day of March, 2023.
Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 13th ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 22)
O.S. NO. 25446/2022 Hg. 25/05/2023
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/S
Mr. JAGADISH R. ...Defendant
D 1.- Mr. JAGADISH R.
S/o Mr. RAMAPPA,
Aged About 33 Years,
No. 518, MM School, Doddathoguru, Electronic City, Bangalore- 560100.
Summons to Defendant
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 2,83,859.42/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Nine and Paise Forty Two Only)** apart from future interest of 15.50% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25446/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 22,** Before 13th Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 25th day of May, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 24th day of March, 2023.
By order of the court Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9 Old No.11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. NO. 26254/2021
BETWEEN :
M/S, ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney
Mr. Promod G., Aged about 46 years, S/o. .Mr. Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
MR. CHANDRAPPA
S/o. Mr Moogaiah, Flat No. 311, Unicon Foland Apartment Adarsha Layout Ganj Garapalya, Bangalore-560062 ...Defendant
Summons to Defendants
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 7,45,614.84/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Fourteen and paisa Eighty Four Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in O.S. No. 26473/2019 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 20, Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 15 day of June, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the 25th day of March, 2023.
By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL, CITY CIVIL SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 58)
O.S. NO. 25314/2022
BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Mr. Promod G., Aged about 47 years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa
AND:
Mr. SANTHANA KRISHNAN D S/o. Mr. Duri, Aged 37 years No.565/5, B M Minireddy Complex, 4th Cross, Bandimakalamma Temple Road, Bangalore-560103
Summons to Defendant
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of **sum of Rs. 3,98,801.21/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred One and paisa Twenty One Only)** apart from future interest of 10.00% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25314/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 58, Before 57th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.**
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **9th day of June, 2023** at **11 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 28th day of March, 2023.
By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560005

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MALLAPPA chalawadi permanent resident at village nagaradinni of vijayapura distric karnataka 586210 i have changed my minor son name from sri shanth to c m srishanth where c means chalawadi and m means mallappa vide adffidavit no IN–KA35391006462630

I B C Nikhil URS S/o D Channaraje URS, residing at D,124 Kethaganahalli Road, Bidadi ,Ramanagara, Karnataka - 562109 , have changed my name to Deenadhayalaa C URS for all purposes in future

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 13th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S. NO. 25343/2022
BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G.Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Promod G., Aged about 46 years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And
1. Mr.MANJUNATH S.
S/o. Mr. Srinivasalu Krishnappa, Aged 26 years, Flat No. 202, 2nd Floor, Deepika Elight, Bangalore-560099
2. Ms. A. LALITHA
D/o. Mr. Venkat Ramaiyyah Aged 54 years, No. 3177, 1st Cross, Flat No. 202, 2nd Floor, Deepika Elight, Bangalore-560099 ...Defendants
Summons to Defendants
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs.7,50,645.80/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Fifty Thousand Six Hundred Forty Five and paisa Eighty Only)** apart from future interest of 16.50% p.a., in O.S. No. 25343/2022 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 22, Before 13th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 30th day of May, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the 25 day of March, 2023.
By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DEVARAJ Parvathi Bai W/o Mysore Narayan Krishna Singh R/at Apt No. GF-1, SRR Sai Enclave, Opp BHCS Layout, 1st Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru-560061, have changed my name from Devaraj Parvathi Bai to Devaraj Parvathy Bai vide affidavit dated 05-04-2023 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. NO. 25409/2022
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G, Aged about 46 Years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa ...PLAINTIFF
V/s.
M/s Sri Balaji Tours and Travels other
And
1. M/s. Sri Balaji Tours and Travels Prop. Mr. Prem Kumar S/o. Mr. Rajendra Aged 37 years, 115, Kote Street, Near Kote Maramma Temple, Attibele, Bengaluru- 562107
2. Ms. Tejaswini GA, D/o. Mr. G. N. Nanjanappa' Aged 29 years, 198/31 Nolubele Village, Attibele, Sarjapur Main Road Bengaluru- 562107 ...DEFENDANTS
Summons to Defendant No. 1 and No. 2
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 9,09,294.73 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Nine Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Four and paisa Seventy Three Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25409/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-58,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 24th day of May, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court this the 28th day of March, 2023.
By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 005
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 001

LEGAL NOTICE

PAPER PUBLICATION IN THE COURT OF THE LXXXIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-90)
COM O.S. NO. 1408/2022 Hg. 23/05/2023
Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and branch office at : 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And
M/s. Aditya Party Sales & others ...Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendants :
a) Sri. Aditya Party Sales, No.114/2, New Channasandra Kadgudi Post, Opp. to Tirumala Bakery, Bengaluru-560 067 Represented by its Proprietor Bhuvaneshwari P.
b) Bhuvaneshwari P. W/o. Venkatesh K. S. Aged about 40 Years,
c) Venkatesh K. S. S/o. Subramaniyan, Aged about 44 Years,
Both are residing at : No.1744/46, 2nd Floor, Near Devaiah Park, Maruthi Extension, Landmark- Rampura Metro Station, Bengaluru- 560021, Ph. No. 8971002000
E-Mail ID: sriadityapartysales@gmail.com
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 5,31,979.29/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXXXIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-90), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 23/05/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 30th day of March, 2023 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates
No. 701, Queens Corner A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru-01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 13th ADDI. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S. NO. 25135/2022
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G., Aged about 47 Years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa ...PLAINTIFF
And
MR. GANESAN
S/o. Mr. Sathan Kruppaiya
Aged about 41 years
No. 501 C, Block Brighade Orchards C Block, Flat No. 501, Devanahalli, Bengaluru- 562110 ...DEFENDANT
Summons to Defendant
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs.4,56,038.93/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Thirty Eight and paisa Ninety Three Only)** apart from future interest of 15.50% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25135/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-22,** Before 13th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court CCH-22 on the 30th day of May, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court this the 25th day of March, 2023.
By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
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e-Tender No.
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e-Tender is invited for "SITC of Mooring Capstans complete assembly 5 Nos with CAMC for 3 years".
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Chief Mechanical Engineer

HC rejects Shivajinagar MLA's plea

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has rejected a petition by Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad and several others, who had questioned the action of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in taking up further revision of voters' list of the constituency even after publication of the 'final' list.

"Section 23 of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1950 itself permits any correction in the entry till the last date of making of nomination. If section provides so, the procedure stipulated for implementation under the Rules cannot mean that the electoral roll cannot be tinkered with after it is finally published," the court said while declining to accept the MLA's claim that list cannot be altered after publication of 'final' voter list. Justice M. Nagaprasanna said that what would unmistakably emerge from Section 23 of the Act is that a person, whose name is left out, can always submit for inclusion of his name before the registration officer up to the last date of making nominations and such transposition, deletion or amendment to the electoral roll can take place.

Open justice

Supreme Court strikes a blow for both media freedom and fair procedure

The Supreme Court verdict setting aside the denial of broadcasting permission to Malayalam channel MediaOne is one that protects the media against arbitrary action and bars the use of undisclosed national security considerations as a pretext to shut down an outlet. The Court has struck a blow for media freedom by ruling that the government could not term critical coverage or airing of critical opinions as "anti-establishment", and so initiate action. It said: "The use of such a terminology... represents an expectation that the press must support the establishment." The denial of security clearance to a media channel on the basis of views it was entitled to hold "produces a chilling effect on free speech and particularly on press freedom". The Bench also cited substantive grounds to allow MediaOne's petitions: that security clearance cannot be denied based on its alleged anti-establishment stance or a bald claim that its shareholders have links with the Jamaat-e-Islami. The Court has rightly found fault with the approach of the Kerala High Court, which had accepted material in a sealed cover on why the Home Ministry denied security clearance to the channel. It expressed surprise that the High Court did not explain how it felt the denial of security clearance was justified even after noting that the gravity of the issue was not discernible from the files.

A significant aspect of the judgment is that it seeks to end the casual resort to 'sealed cover procedure' by courts by suggesting an alternative approach to state claims of immunity from publication in public interest. Drawing upon both Indian and foreign jurisprudence, the Bench has said it is now an established principle of natural justice that relevant material must be disclosed to the affected party, ensuring that the right to appeal can be effectively exercised. It acknowledges that confidentiality and national security could be "legitimate aims for the purpose of limiting procedural guarantees". However, a blanket immunity from disclosure of all reports could not be granted and that the validity of the involvement of such considerations must be assessed by the use of relevant tests. It could be ascertained if there is proof that non-disclosure is in the interest of national security and whether a reasonable person would come to the same inference from it. In a bid to balance the public interest in non-disclosure with the one in ensuring a fair hearing, the Court has mooted alternatives such as redacting sensitive portions and providing a gist of the material given to the affected party. The Court could also appoint an *amicus curiae*, who could be given access to the material whenever the state claims immunity from disclosure.

Substance, subtext

Bhutan King's India visit sought to enhance cooperation and allay fears

Bhutan's fifth king, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's visit to India this week had both substance and subtext. After talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu, the joint statement detailed cooperation in many areas. India has agreed to support Bhutan's next development plans and extend additional standby lines of credit. Hydropower, the "cornerstone" of India-Bhutan ties, also received a boost, with the government agreeing to consider Bhutanese requests for expediting long-delayed projects (Sankosh and Punatsangchhu), revising upwards the tariff on Chhukha, the oldest project, and buying power from the Basochhu power project. New infrastructure projects include an integrated checkpoint for trucks at Jaigaon, a checkpoint for third country nationals and a cross-border rail link from Kokrajhar to Gelephu. Future partnerships could include space research, skilling, startups and STEM education, and a new Internet gateway for Bhutan, in keeping with the Bhutanese king's new "Transform Initiative". The Bhutanese government is also worried about the number of Bhutanese migrating overseas as youth unemployment in 2021 reached 21%. India too needs to pay more attention to this brain drain, as, in the past, Bhutan's elite would have been educated in India. India stands to lose its edge in Bhutanese policy making and public narrative, and thus the projects outlined stand to benefit Delhi and Thimphu in keeping the talent within.

However, it is the visit's subtext – after recent comments by Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering indicating progress in China-Bhutan boundary talks – that must cause concern. In an interview to a European paper, he had said that Bhutan and China hope to agree on demarcating their northern boundary dispute in the next "1-2 meetings". This must set alarm bells ringing as China has offered this demarcation as part of a "package deal" with Doklam, the area near the trijunction with India, and strategically sensitive given its proximity to India's Siliguri corridor. While Bhutan is clear that all talks about the trijunction would be "trilateral", India's concerns extend to any change in the area surrounding it, so there needs to be full clarity on the issue. New Delhi must also not allow hyper-nationalism and its antagonism with China to pressure Bhutan. India's time-tested ties with Bhutan have been predicated on not seeing each other in terms of the difference in their size but in counting each country's prosperity as a win-win for both. More importantly, they have always anticipated the other's interests before taking any step that could affect their long-cherished partnership.

A very different conception of 'Ram Rajya'

Shashi Tharoor

is Member of Parliament (Congress), Lok Sabha, for Thiruvananthapuram, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, and Chairman, All-India Professionals' Congress

It was the longest-serving Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) sarsangchalak, M.S. Golwalkar, who famously spurned Gandhian ahimsa by observing tartly, "all Hindu gods are depicted carrying weapons". Some of his acolytes this year have decided to emulate their gods on Ram Navami, as Hindu marchers, in what were ostensibly religious processions, turned up brandishing swords, maces, even knives and revolvers to advertise their strength. This weaponisation of faith was a reminder of the derisive rejection of Gandhian 'universalism' and 'non-violence' by Hindutva's original proponent, V.D. Savarkar, who considered them delusionary opiates. Instead of Mahatma Gandhi's moral lessons in favour of peace, Savarkar advocated the "political virility" of Hindutva, an idea which seems to have found full flower in today's foot-soldiers of that doctrine.

Mahatma Gandhi's idea of Ram Rajya – the very idea of Gandhi, one might say – is in danger of being swept aside by prevailing ideological currents, ironically in favour of a very different conception of Rama. These days, when the standing of his historic detractors is at an all-time high, Gandhiji has been criticised for weakness, for having bent over too far to accommodate Muslim interests, and for his pacifism, which is seen by the jingoistic Hindutva movement as unmanly. The Mahatma was killed, with the name of Rama on his lips, for being too pro-Muslim. Indeed, he had just come out of a fast he had conducted to coerce his own followers, the ministers of the new Indian government, to transfer a larger share than they had intended of the assets of undivided India to the new state of Pakistan. Gandhiji's idea of Ram Rajya was arguably utopian – a vision of perfect social harmony, economic justice and political freedom. The Hindutva idea is one of unbridled Hindutva dominance, in which those who do not conform are firmly put in their place.

Truth and the Mahatma

The Mahatma was more than just the extraordinary leader of the world's first successful non-violent movement for independence from colonial rule. He was also a philosopher who was constantly seeking to live out his own ideas, whether they applied to individual self-improvement or social change: his autobiography was typically subtitled *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

Mahatma Gandhi's idea of Ram Rajya – a vision of perfect social harmony, economic justice and political freedom – is in danger of being swept aside by prevailing ideological currents

No dictionary imbues 'truth' with the depth of meaning Gandhiji gave it. His truth emerged from his convictions: it meant not only what was accurate, but what was just and, therefore, right. Truth could not be obtained by 'untruthful' or unjust means, which included inflicting violence upon one's opponent. To describe his method, Gandhiji coined the expression satyagraha – literally, 'holding on to truth' or, as he variously described it, truth-force, love-force or soul-force. He disliked the English term 'passive resistance, because satyagraha required activism, not passivity. If you believed in the truth and cared enough to obtain it, Gandhiji felt, you could not afford to be passive: you had to be prepared actively to suffer for the truth.

So non-violence, like many later concepts labelled with a negation, from non-cooperation to non-alignment, meant much more than the denial of an opposite; it did not merely imply the absence of violence. Non-violence was the way to vindicate the truth not by the infliction of suffering on the opponent, but on oneself. It was essential to willingly accept punishment in order to demonstrate the strength of one's convictions.

An ambivalence

The attitude of the Hindutva-inspired government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards Gandhiji is deeply ambivalent. Many RSS *pracharaks* and other members of the Sangh Parivar were schooled in an intense dislike of the Mahatma, whose message of tolerance and pluralism was emphatically rejected as minority appeasement by the Sangh Parivar, and whose credo of non-violence, or ahimsa, was seen as an admission of weakness unworthy of manly Hindus. Hindutva ideologue Savarkar, whom Mr. Modi has described as one of his heroes, had expressed contempt for Gandhiji's 'perverse doctrine of non-violence and truth' and claimed it 'was bound to destroy the power of the country'. But the Prime Minister, for all his Hindutva mindset, his admiration of Savarkar and his lifetime affiliation to the Sangh Parivar, has embraced Gandhiji, hailing the Mahatma and even using his glasses as a symbol of the Swachh Bharat campaign, linking it to a call to revive Gandhiji's idea of *seva* through the 'Swachchta Hi Seva' Campaign.

The ambivalence speaks volumes: when many members of Mr. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) call for replacing Gandhiji's statues across the country with those of his assassin, Nathuram Godse, the Prime Minister seeks to lay claim to the mantle of his fellow Gujarati for his own political benefit. At the same time, there is also a dissonance between the official governmental embrace of Gandhiji and the unofficial ideological distaste for him privately expressed by members and supporters of the ruling party, some of whom have not hidden their view that his assassination was, in their eyes, a patriotic act. Even the Mahatma's declared intention, shortly before his assassination, to spend his remaining days in Pakistan, sits uncomfortably with a party whose leaders' favourite imprecation for its critics is 'Go to Pakistan!'

The difference

It is well understood that the vision of Gandhiji, an openly practising Hindu, differed greatly from that of his fellow Hindus Savarkar and Golwalkar, the principal ideologues of the Hindu Mahasabha and the RSS respectively (the forerunners of the BJP). His Hinduism, open, eclectic and accepting of difference, could have lent itself to a different form of 'Hindu nationalism', a liberal nationalism imbued with his Hindu values, and so well suited to managing the diversity of India. But Gandhiji was far too inclusive to have qualified his nationalism with a communal adjective. Savarkar, who had little use for Hindu religious beliefs and practices except as a label for identity formation, never thought much of Gandhi's faith or the principle of non-violence that emerged from it. To the Hindutva*vadi*, nationalism cannot be non-violent because in order to succeed, it needs to be coercive and destructive of enemies, and when it succeeds it is expressed through the apparatus of the state, which has a monopoly over violence. Despite being a far more deeply rooted Hindu than Savarkar, Mahatma Gandhi has little place in the Hindutva imagination.

Hinduism and Hindutva, as I have argued in my books, *Why I Am a Hindu* and *The Battle of Belonging*, represent two very distinct and contrasting ideas, with vitally different implications for nationalism and the role of the Hindu faith. The principles Gandhiji stood for and the way in which he asserted them are easier to admire than to follow. But their conception of Ram Rajya represented an ideal that is betrayed every day by those who distort Hinduism to promote a narrow, exclusionary bigotry.

Macron, Sunak and an appetite for risk-taking

Krishnan Srinivasan

is a former Foreign Secretary

French President Emmanuel Macron was re-elected last year with a campaign pledge to make the French work longer by raising the official retirement age from 62, the lowest in the European Union, to 65, later reduced to 64. France's unions and the political opposition organised nationwide strikes almost every week, with over a million protestors. As a result, Mr. Macron became the first French President to fall short of a parliamentary majority since presidential and parliamentary elections were aligned.

Macron's defiance and the Article 49.3 route

From the outset of mass mobilisation against the pension proposal, Article 49.3 of the French Constitution, granting the President executive privilege to pass a Bill without a vote, was viewed as a risky option. But lacking a majority in the National Assembly, Mr. Macron chose this route, leading to tumultuous scenes in Parliament, on March 16, that echoed the country's revolutionary past.

The combined Opposition moved two no-confidence motions, one of which was defeated by merely nine votes when Mr. Macron was bailed out by the conservative Republican Party. He argued that raising the retirement age was essential to make France competitive when people are living longer and security benefits threaten to plunge budgets into deficit. But he is being attacked as a neo-liberal, dismantling social welfare in order to benefit global capital, whose 'top-down' approach is ill-suited to a hung parliament where compromise and coalition-building are needed. The French media are also hugely critical.

The unions contend that the proposal primarily affects low-skilled workers who do exhausting jobs and women with discontinuous careers, and have called for street protests against the regime's bypassing of Parliament. France is now convulsed by massive outrage, millions are protesting across the country, and polls show 80% support for the strikes.

The two European leaders are hardly averse to staking their political capital to pursue strong policy programmes

Article 49.3 has been invoked 100 times since 1959, but never for an issue so adamantly opposed by the public. Over the years, governments have overcome protests, such as in 2010 when the retirement age was raised from 60 to 62 years. But at other times, as in 1995 and 2006, strikes have forced the President to withdraw his planned legislation. Rioters and the President rarely seek compromise and Mr. Macron will struggle to pass laws in his remaining four years. Displaying intransigence, he is disinclined to negotiate with even the moderate unions. The leader of Mr. Macron's parliamentary party declared pithily: "is the pension reform indispensable, or unbearable for the French public?"

Amid looting and urban violence, thousands of tonnes of rubbish lying uncollected, and hundreds of arrests and injured policemen, the only alternatives might be to cut the value of pensions or increase contributions from those in work, but both would make Mr. Macron even more unpopular since people believe finances are not as bad as portrayed. There are even calls to lower the retirement age to 60, where it was before 2010; faith in conventional politics and the parliamentary system is at rock bottom.

Apart from street protests, the Opposition has recourse to two avenues; the constitutional court and a referendum. The court is due to pass judgment on April 14, but has a history of supporting the government. Mr. Macron's popularity is slipping; even before Article 49.3, his rating was only 28%. He also has two options; to hold fast or dissolve Parliament for fresh elections – though in the latter, a Harris Interactive Survey predicts that all parties would lose ground to the far right. There is a crisis of authority undermining Mr. Macron's unpopular minority government. "When a government chooses force," says Paris Deputy Mayor Ian Brossat, "it is always because its authority is weakened."

Sunak's gamble

Due to smartphones, the Internet and television, the poor, the destitute and those caught in wars and natural disasters, now know of a desirable richer world, and developed nations have to determine what is practical, political, logistical and moral when it comes to immigration.

More than 45,000 people entered Britain illegally by sea in 2022, compared to 300 in 2018. They resist deportation by filing successive appeals, and cost the taxpayer £6 million a day. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, in search of an emotive issue for his Conservative Party's Brexiteers, and buoyed by securing a Northern Ireland trade deal with the European Union despite opposition from his predecessor Boris Johnson and the loyalist Irish Unionists, has staked his political capital into ending illegal immigration, notwithstanding doubts expressed by fellow Conservatives who claim the scheme is unworkable.

The new law to deport illegal migrants "within weeks", applies retrospectively as well, and Indian-origin Home Minister Suella Braverman has persuaded Rwanda to accept the expelled migrants. Mr. Sunak, whose popularity exceeds that of his party, is confident the legislation would prevail over the Labour Party opposition (who claim the plans risk "making the chaos worse"), the Lords upper house, the European Court of Human Rights, the UN Refugee Agency and Amnesty International, who have all strongly opposed Mr. Sunak's scheme.

Internal party challenges to Mr. Sunak have faded, but his party still trails Labour by 22 percentage points. Nevertheless, it is certain that the refugee problem is so massive that succeeding governments, of whatever political party, will inherit the same issues that all wealthy countries confront.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Verdict, fettered media

The Supreme Court of India has struck a decisive blow for the protection of free speech and media freedom in its lifting the telecast ban on Malayalam channel Media One and also criticising the use of "sealed covers in courts to outsmart citizens' rights" (Page 1, "SC says critical views on govt. policies not anti-establishment", April 6). The press, which is called the fourth pillar of democracy, has a duty to speak truth to power and present citizens with hard facts, enabling them to make choices that propel democracy in the right direction.

P. Sooryanarayana,
Kochi, Kerala

The verdict is a shot in the arm for the freedom of speech and also the press, which is shying away from writing anything against the ruling dispensation lest they be blacklisted and have cases filed against them. The first blow to the freedom of speech was when journalists, activists and even ordinary citizens began to be called "anti-national" and "urban naxals" and had sedition charges slapped against them. The government should ponder over the Court's observation that having divergent views or criticising government policies do not amount to being anti-establishment.

Prabhu Raj R.,
Bengaluru

It is indeed unfortunate that, time and again, the Supreme Court of India has to sensitise the Union government to the fact that an independent media is vital for the country and that homogenised views on socio-economic and cultural issues are an affront to democracy. It is hoped that, henceforth, good sense will prevail over the Union and State governments which seek many ways to throttle the fourth estate.

K.S. Sundaram,
Coimbatore

Threat to delta region

This is with reference to the report, "Coal block auctioning in delta region runs into stiff opposition from farmers" (Inside pages, April 5).

Occurrences of controversial issues — mining in the Cauvery delta region is an example — have become a common feature under the ruling dispensation at the Centre. The Coal Ministry could have averted the present controversy had it perceived the nature of protests by the farmers. Endangering the agriculturally fertile delta region will have terrible consequences.

Manoharan M.,
Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

Lessons from history

The write-up, "Understanding the Mughals: there are lessons to be learned from every king" ('Text and Context' page, April 6), affirms the fact that one can learn things from the past that would help facing challenges; forget the sarcastic statement of the former Prime Minister of England, Benjamin Disraeli, who said history is the endless repetition of wrongdoing. The conclusion of the article, enlisting the benefits from a reading of history, is a case in point.

E.S. Chandrasekaran,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Is the India-Bhutan relationship intact?

Pavan K. Varma

is a writer, former diplomat and MP. He served as India's Ambassador to Bhutan from 2009 to 2012

Phunchok Stobdan,

an academic and a former diplomat, is the author of 'The Great Game in the Buddhist Himalayas'

PARLEY

During Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's visit to New Delhi this month, India announced a number of measures to support its neighbour's development plans. However, the unspoken part of the visit was Bhutan's boundary talks with China. Before the King's visit to India, Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering had said in an interview that Bhutan and China have made considerable progress on demarcating border lines. In a discussion moderated by **Suhasini Haidar,** Pavan K. Varma and Phunchok Stobdan take stock of the India-Bhutan relationship. Edited excerpts:

What has made the India-Bhutan relationship "exemplary" and unique?

Pavan K. Varma: Bhutan is not just a neighbour, but a very important and strategic one. Its border with India is over 600 km long, and it plays the role of a buffer between China and India. The relationship has been strengthened from the time of our independence. What is important is that we didn't allow the 'Big Brother' syndrome to apply to Bhutan – from 1958 when Jawaharlal Nehru trekked across the Himalayas to Bhutan and assured it of independence and sovereignty to the present time where the interests of Bhutan are linked to the interests of India, and vice versa, by an institutional and economic framework. India is Bhutan's biggest development partner. India is the largest source of imports for Bhutan. We have managed to create this bond not only through rhetoric, but by harnessing hydroelectricity for which the rivers in Bhutan, which come down from the Himalayas to India, have been used. There are joint agreements whereby India buys power generated in Bhutan. Hydroelectricity has become one of the biggest revenue earners of Bhutan, which makes Bhutan the country with the highest per capita income in South Asia today.

Phunchok Stobdan: I will go a little bit beyond the transactional, developmental orientation of the relationship that we have built. I think its very basis is not India, but China, and a desire since the 17th century to identify Bhutan as distinct from Tibet. In the 17th century, when the Shabdrung Rinpoche broke away from Tibet, it is to India and not Tibet that Bhutan looked. In a sense, independent India continued a relationship that the British had built. Bhutan is a Buddhist theocracy, a monarchy, and a modern state. So, it is special for us from a historical context to a theological context, from a strategic context to an economic one.

What was the context of the visit by the Bhutan King to Delhi this week, given speculation around a possible breakthrough on boundary talks with China that Mr. Tshering had alluded to in an interview?

Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their meeting in New Delhi. AFP

PKV: I do not think that is the context of the visit. Traditionally, a significant feature of this relationship has been the regularity of high-level visits. Even when the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) government came to power, the first country which Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) visited was Bhutan. The visit of the King of Bhutan was planned far in advance.

Even so, would a breakthrough with China be a concern for India?

PKV: It's a concern that underpins the manner in which the relationship with Bhutan has been structured. China has been seeking a toehold in Bhutan for decades. Where Bhutan decides its boundary with China (to the west) is of exceptional relevance to India because that is a trijunction of the three countries. Bhutan is fully conscious of India's strategic needs. As per their 2007 Treaty of Friendship, India and Bhutan consult at a high level in order to be able to maximise or reinforce their mutual strategic interests. Bhutan has been having talks with China on the boundary question for years, and there has been no decision yet. Similarly, India and China have frequently had boundary talks without any agreement being reached. So, Mr. Tshering was not saying anything new when he said that three countries are involved there. This is not only a bilateral matter between Bhutan and China; India's interests are also involved.

PS: I don't believe that the Government of India was unaware about what was discussed between China and Bhutan. But the Foreign Secretary made one thing clear in his statement: India will not talk about Bhutan-China negotiations publicly; however, when it comes to India's national security, there will be no compromise. The language was tough, and there seems to be

> My sense is that China is employing all kinds of tools, instruments, methodology to attract the Bhutanese. We have to meet the challenge.
> **PHUNCHOK STOBDAN**

a change in tone from our side. I think India is not concerned about a breakthrough on [talks on] territory to Bhutan's north with China, but when it comes to the west, to the area near India, the Foreign Secretary's statement made it clear that we are concerned about it.

After the Doklam standoff between India and China in 2017, has there been a change in Bhutan's willingness to discuss the boundary?

PKV: I don't believe so. China has been offering major concessions on the north in order to obtain a much smaller territory, which is in Doklam, for years. Bhutan has resisted this offer consistently because it understands India's security concerns and will not decide its border with China without taking into account India's interests. Of course, Bhutan is aware that China is a menacing power, that China's build-up in that disputed area is considerable, and there is also some incremental encroachment beyond the boundary dispute into Bhutanese territory. The Bhutanese monitor this very carefully and, to the best of my knowledge, keep the Indian government informed. India is absolutely within its rights to stress that this is a matter of strategic importance to us, because the Doklam plateau overlooks the Chumbi Valley, which overlooks the chicken's neck (Siliguri corridor). India says this not because Bhutan is threatening its cooperation with India on this front, but to send a message to China that we will draw a line here in conformity with our national interest.

PS: I think India has been briefed by Bhutanese diplomats at every stage about the developments on the border talks. What I heard is that in the last couple of years, Bhutan and China have adopted a process of using a modern methodology to draw the boundary lines on the ground, not peak to peak. And there may be some adjustment of territory as a result of that. However, we must pay more attention to the mood inside Bhutan changing in a way that may not be in our favour. Bhutanese youth are travelling outside to study. Now you have new perceptions in Bhutan, where every action of India may not be seen in a positive manner. Yes, I think Doklam has played some role in that, given the feelings of nationalism that were expressed by India, and the worries inside Bhutan that they [Bhutan] were being squeezed in the rivalry between India and China. I think we need more diplomacy, more diplomats who understand Bhutanese sentiments in this regard.

What is the way forward in terms of building trust between the two countries?

PKV: There is now a new generation in Bhutan. And I believe that the umbilical cord of educational connectivity between India and Bhutan is slightly frayed. But I don't believe this should add insecurity to a relationship. Even the youth know that Bhutan and India's development partnership is the key to Bhutan's continued prosperity.

PS: It is true that people in Bhutan, especially above the age of 35, are conscious about the importance of the India relationship. But younger Bhutanese need to be reached out to. These days much of the negative sentiments, wrong information about India, are on social media in Bhutan. Some in Bhutan feel that Indians are using security issues as an excuse to keep Bhutan under India's control. These kinds of things were not discussed, say, five years ago. Let's remember that the Bhutan-India relationship has survived mainly because it was built on mutual trust, which means Bhutan has equally driven the relationship. India has to keep up this relationship not just economically, or through a transactional relationship, but by reaching out to the new generation.

Would you say, then, that the India-Bhutan relationship is intact?

PS: Yes. Our ties are built on spiritual underpinnings, and those are not going to go away. Besides, the imperatives of geography, economy, connectivity all strengthen that. The challenges are there, of course. My own sense is that China is employing all kinds of tools, instruments, methodology to attract the Bhutanese – through trade, their modern cities, scholarships. That's the fear, and we have to meet the challenge.

PKV: I think the relationship is not only intact, but will strengthen in the years to come. The India-Bhutan relationship has crystallised over the decades into such a mammoth edifice of mutually beneficial interaction that it is difficult to dismantle. The key to strengthening it for the future is for India not to show any insecurity about this relationship, or in any way attempt to stifle differing voices, whether on social media or otherwise, but to pursue this relationship with trust and complete faith.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

From travelling in unreserved train compartments to getting mobbed

Women's cricket was quite popular in India even earlier, but the Women's Premier League has transformed it

P.K. Ajith Kumar

I came across a group of young women – a French translator, a make-up artist and a home-maker – at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) in Mumbai shortly after the final of the Women's Premier League (WPL) last month. They were happy: their team, Mumbai Indians, had just won the inaugural edition of the WPL. Though they follow cricket, it was the first time that they were watching women's cricket. They aren't alone. The WPL has created a fan base of millions for women's cricket in India, going by the eyeballs that the WPL attracted for over three weeks in March.

Not that women's cricket wasn't popular in India before the WPL. I remember reporting on an India-Australia Women's ODI series before a full house at the Reliance Cricket Stadium in Vadodara five years ago. *The Hindu* had published the full scoreboard along with the match report at a time when women's cricket got little space in the media. But the WPL has transformed women's cricket. By the time the WPL player auction was conducted in Mumbai in February, the Indian media had woken up to women's cricket. Like the venues – the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai and the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai – the press boxes too were crowded for the WPL matches, which was not the case earlier.

It is indeed nice to see our female cricketers getting their due. Listening to their life stories has been a fascinating experience over the last few years. They are not just wonderful cricketers, but wonderful women as well. For instance, one is unlikely to meet a more humble star in any field than Ellyse Perry, the Australian all-rounder who has won eight cricket World Cups and scored a goal in a football World Cup. New Zealand's Sophie Devine has an excellent sense of humour. Her popularity rose sharply in India after her stunning knock (99 off 36 balls) against Royal Challengers Bangalore. When I asked the women at the CCI about their highlights of the WPL, they referred to that innings. They also told me about the Indian players they admired, such as Harleen Deol. The conversation reminded me of my interview with Smriti Mandhana. The goddess of the off-side – to borrow and slightly change an expression that Rahul Dravid used to describe Sourav Ganguly – had told me that she was happy to find that people had begun to give a name to the Indian female cricketer: earlier, it was the girl who bowled left-arm spin, now it was Radha Yadav. Our female cricketers are now mobbed, have a massive following on social media and appeared constantly in advertisements during the WPL.

Shubhangi Kulkarni, the former Indian captain whose leg-spin helped the Indian women score their first ever Test victory (against the West Indies in 1976), never had experiences like these. Not that she complains. Last year, when I went to Pune to cover the Women's T20 Challenge – the precursor to the WPL –I met her. We have been talking on the phone for years; she is articulate and friendly. We met at her shop, Sunny's Sports Boutique, which she set up along with Sunil Gavaskar and former Baroda cricketer Jairaj Mehta. Sitting at the cash counter, she told me at length about the early days of women's cricket in India, when players like her travelled on unreserved train compartments and spent from their own pockets. The customers who came there to buy cricket equipment probably had no idea that they were interacting with a former India captain. A little later, we were joined by her India teammate, Nilima Jogalekar, who told me about the first prize she got from cricket. It was a glucose biscuit.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

An Iftar for all

Kashmiri traders break their fast at Jew Town, Mattancherry, on April 3. After offering prayers at Synagogue Lane, all the communities celebrate Iftar together with an elaborate meal. Jew Town, which was once inhabited by Baghdadi Jews, is now a centre for Kashmiri traders who deal with handicrafts, local antique dealers and Gujarati spice merchants. Thulasi Kakkat

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 7, 1973

Indian Army takes over control of Gangtok

Gangtok, April 6: Indian Army units, which early to-day took over three Sikkimese police stations, moved into new areas in the evening in response to a fresh request from the Chogyal as reports spoke of continued loss of control by the Sikkim Government in South, East and West Sikkim. The Indian Army took over control of Gangtok following the latest request of the Chogyal and is now patrolling the streets of Gangtok. The Chogyal's request to-day came after some 15,000 volunteers of the Joint Council of Action spearheading the campaign for political and administrative reforms were reported to be marching towards the capital from the Sangkhola-Raniphul area, about 12 km from here. Indian Army units moved into the Sangkhola area, where a modern hydel station, one of the biggest of Indian-aided projects is located, at 18-00 hours. Indian troops last night took over Rangpo, Rhenok and Rangali police posts which had been over-run by anti-government demonstrators.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 7, 1923

League of nations

The latest development in the activities of the League of Nations is, the organisation of international fight against dangerous drugs based on information supplied by the various Governments. The Chinese Government recently reported to Geneva that 300 kilogrammes of morphine was smuggled into Amoy alone in a year. It is alleged the morphine came from Denmark. The Secretary of the League acquainted the Danish Government with the complaint of China, thus enabling the adoption for suitable measures for the suppression of traffic complained. The Canadian Government has reported that drugs are smuggled from Germany into Spain, whence they arrive in French ports for shipment to America, the Canadian customs authorities recently seized a big consignment of morphine and cocaine consigned from Basle as cocoa.

From Page One

PIB-flagged 'fake news' must be taken down

In other words, platforms will not be required to take down content due to this Rule alone, but they will not enjoy the legal immunity that they currently benefit from for content posted by their users. They can now be called as a party in court proceedings. "So intermediaries who choose to continue to have that content – and it is within their right to do so – will only have the consequence of having to deal with the person who's aggrieved by that content to deal with them in a court of law," Mr. Chandrasekhar said. "There is already an obligation under Section 3(1)(b)(v) [of the IT Rules] that you cannot have misinformation ... Nobody said anything in October when the Rules were notified," he added.

Mr. Chandrasekhar dismissed concerns that this amendment would lead to censorship of posts on social media platforms that are critical of the government. The Editors Guild of India said in a statement when the draft amendment was released for public comment that the Rules "basically serves to make it easier to muzzle the free press, and will give sweeping powers to the PIB ... to force online intermediaries to take down content that the government may find problematic."

Social media companies recently submitted a proposal for regulating fake news, and the government is studying that proposal, the Minister said.

Pause, not pivot, says Das; RBI holds key rate

"Our job is not yet finished and the war against inflation has to continue until we see durable decline in inflation closer to the target. We stand ready to act appropriately and in time," Mr. Das added. Stating that there had been an effective rate increase of 290 basis points (bps) over the last year, he said this 290 bps increase had in fact translated to monetary policy transmission by way of an increase in the overnight call rate from the daily average in March last year to the daily average of March this year by 320 bps.

"In last March, the rate was 3.32% and this March, the daily average is 6.52%. So therefore the effective increase is in the order of 320 bps. It is therefore now necessary to access the cumulative impact of our action taken so far," he said.

Risk of raising rates

Given the overall macroeconomic and financial stability outlook, "our priority continues to be price stability", the RBI Governor said.

When *The Hindu* asked at what point, in terms of data, the RBI would concede that using interest rates alone to tackle inflation has its limits and that raising rates has its own risks for financial stability, Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra said, "In the fight against inflation, interest rate alone has not been used. They have been used in conjunction with supply-side measures, because along with the demand pressure, there have been multiple shocks from the supply side... We have an assignment to a regulatory macro-prudential policy, and we are assigned to financial stability. So, there are separate tools which assure that banks are sufficiently buffered against shocks."

Global volatility

In his statement, Mr. Das said that protracted geopolitical tensions and the volatility in the global financial markets posed a downside risk to the outlook.

Taking various factors into consideration, the RBI has projected real GDP growth for 2023-24 at 6.5%, with Q1 at 7.8%, Q2 at 6.2%, Q3 at 6.1% and Q4 at 5.9%. Taking various factors into account and assuming an annual average crude oil price (Indian basket) of $85 per barrel and a normal monsoon, consumer price index inflation is projected to moderate to 5.2% for 2023-24, with Q1 at 5.1%, Q2 at 5.4%, Q3 at 5.4% and Q4 at 5.2%.

Govt. amends rules regulating online real money gaming

The IT Ministry's amendment may allow such platforms to avoid the 'betting and gambling' tag, if they get a self-regulatory body's nod; I&B Ministry raps media for carrying ads of betting platforms

Devesh K Pandey
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Thursday released an amendment to the IT Rules, 2021, to regulate "online real money games" where users have to risk money to play, while the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting issued a fresh advisory warning media entities, platforms and online intermediaries against airing advertisements of betting and gambling platforms.

In the advisory, the I&B Ministry took strong exception to the recent instances of mainstream English and Hindi newspapers carrying advertisements and promotional content of betting websites. The government would be constrained to take appropriate legal action against any non-compliance, it said.

"The advisory has been issued to all media formats, including newspapers, television channels, and online news publishers, and showed specific examples where such advertisements have appeared in the media in recent times," the Ministry said, objecting to the promotion by a specific betting platform that encouraged the audience to watch a sports league on its website in *prima facie* violation of the Copyright Act.

Rules clarified: The Ministry said that video games where money is not involved need not approach an SRB. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Real money gaming

The IT Ministry's Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023 require real money gaming platforms to register with a self-regulatory body (SRB) that will determine whether or not the game is "permissible". Three SRBs will be recognised soon, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said at a press conference on Wednesday.

"There will now be more government oversight over how SRBs function," Shambhavi Ravishankar, a consultant at Ikigai Law, told *The Hindu*. "Most of the requirements in the rules have already been part of the responsible gaming best practices followed by the industry."

If these games are not deemed "permissible," Mr. Chandrasekhar said, they will not get the protection of the amendment, and States may be able to take action against them for being betting or gambling platforms.

As such, games that are deemed permissible will be allowed to operate legally, even if they involve deposits against an expectation of winnings.

Video games where money is not involved need not approach an SRB, Mr. Chandrasekhar clarified.

Pivotal moment

The real money gaming industry welcomed the amendment. Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) Director-General Joy Bhattacharjya called the Rules a "pivotal moment" for the industry.

MHA recommends CBI probe against Oxfam India for FCRA violations

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday recommended an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the alleged violation of FCRA provisions by Oxfam India, one of the largest NGOs working on food, shelter and education of vulnerable groups.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration of Oxfam India that enabled it to receive foreign funds was not renewed by the Ministry in 2021.

On Thursday, a senior government official said that the NGO was registered under the FCRA for undertaking "social" activities and its registration was valid till December 31, 2021.

The official said that Oxfam continued to transfer foreign funds to various other entities even after the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020, which prohibits such transfers, came into force. "The amendment came in force on September 29, 2020. The Oxfam India transferred funds to other NGOs, violating provisions of the FCRA," the official said.

The recommendation for a CBI investigation comes after Income Tax authorities on September 7, 2022 searched the offices of Oxfam India and Centre for Policy Research (CPR), one of the leading public policy think tanks.

Evidence found

The official said the e-mails found during the I-T survey revealed that Oxfam India was planning to circumvent FCRA provisions by routing funds to other FCRA-registered associations or through the for-profit consultancy route.

The findings of the survey suggested the NGO acted as "a probable instrument of foreign policy of foreign organisations and entities which have funded the Oxfam India liberally over the years".

Oxfam India logo. AP

The official added that though Oxfam is registered to carry out social activities, it transferred funds to CPR through its associates and employees in the form of commission.

"The same is also reflected from the TDS [tax deducted at source] data of the Oxfam India which shows payment of ₹12,71,188 to the CPR in the 2019-20 under section 194J." The Ministry on February 27 suspended the FCRA registration of CPR for 180 days.

Oxfam received ₹1.5 crore foreign contribution directly into its utilisation account instead of receiving foreign contribution in designated FCRA account as mandated through the 2020 amendment of the Act, the official said.

Oxfam has also moved a petition in the Delhi High Court against the Ministry's decision to not renew its FCRA registration.

Oxfam India said in a statement that it is fully compliant with Indian laws and has filed all its statutory compliances, including FCRA returns, in a timely manner since its inception. "Oxfam India has been cooperating with all government agencies since its FCRA registration was not renewed in December 2021. We have filed a plea in the Delhi High Court against the decision to not renew our FCRA registration. The High Court has asked the Union government to respond to our plea," it said.

'India will not interfere in Qatari legal process'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India will not "put pressure on Qatar" or interfere but is keeping a "close watch", on the Qatari legal process that is currently under way for the eight detained former Indian Navy personnel in the Gulf country, official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi said on Thursday.

Elaborating on the Indian position regarding the personnel who have been in the custody of Qatar for the last eight months, Mr. Bagchi said the hearing in the case has commenced and that India has asked for another round of consular access.

The former Indian Navy officers were arrested by Qatari intelligence service from Doha on August 30, 2022. Qatar has thrice granted consular access to the captive former officials, who were reportedly employed by Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services.

Govt. nod for Space Policy; private players set to gain

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday approved the Indian Space Policy 2023 that seeks to institutionalise the private sector participation in the space sector, with ISRO focusing on research and development of advanced space technologies.

The Indian Space Policy-2023, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security, also delineated the roles and responsibilities of ISRO, space sector PSU NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center.

Towards greater heights: Jitendra Singh (right) and Anurag Singh Thakur at the Cabinet briefing on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said the policy will allow the private sector to take part in end-to-end space activities that include building satellites, rockets and launch vehicles and data collection. ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said the focus of the policy would be to increase the participation of the private players in the sector.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur also addressed the briefing.

GAS PRICING NORMS
» BUSINESS PAGE

India denies China's allegation of unfair treatment of journalists

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and China continued to spar over visas for journalists in each other's countries, even as India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the two sides are holding talks on the issue.

On Tuesday, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) informed two journalists – including *The Hindu*'s correspondent based in Beijing – both of whom were in India at the time, that their visas were being "frozen". On Thursday, China's MFA said that it had decided to take "counter-measures" after India denied several visas, and granted only short-term, single-entry visas to other journalists. However, the MEA rejected the Chinese statement, adding that Chinese journalists in India faced no "difficulties" in reporting in India.

'Unfair treatment'

"Chinese journalists have suffered unfair and discriminatory treatment in India for a long time," Chinese MFA spokesperson Mao Ning said, citing incidents in 2017 and 2021, when journalists belonging to state-owned Xinhua and CGTN had their visas curtailed or cancelled.

"A few days ago, the Indian side asked a journalist of the Xinhua News Agency to leave the country by March 31, citing the reason that he had been in the country for six years," Ms. Mao added. The MFA spokesperson also compared India's visa policy for Chinese journalists unfavourably with China's policy for Indian journalists.

Arindam Bagchi

'No difficulties'

When asked about the cases cited, the MEA spokesperson did not deny that the government had asked a Xinhua journalist to leave the country. "There are Chinese journalists who have valid Indian visas for pursuing journalistic activities in India," said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

The spokesperson also said that India hopes Chinese authorities "would facilitate the continued presence and reporting from China" by Indian journalists, adding that the MEA is "in touch" with Chinese authorities in this regard". While the Indian journalists have been informed verbally of China's intentions there has been no written order supplied to them.

BSP MP meets Modi, raises issues faced by Muslims

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP Kunwar Danish Ali met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Thursday and raised issues faced by the Muslim community. The Amroha MP also submitted a memorandum on the development issues in his constituency.

He said that the Muslim population was also playing a key role in the country's fast-paced growth. He said some elements were trying to sabotage Mr. Modi's efforts. "They are trying to push the Muslim community to the ghettos of darkness and backwardness," he said.

Minister clears the air over clause restricting options for higher PF pension

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav on Thursday clarified that employees and pensioners covered under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) of 1995, "are not restricted from filing application forms/joint options [for higher Provident Fund (PF) pension]," in the absence of the requirement of permission under paragraph 26(6) of the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 1952.

The paragraph in question pertains to allowing employees to make PF contributions beyond the statutory ceiling of ₹15,000 of their pay per month and enabling them to receive benefits accordingly.

Bhupender Yadav

The requirement, as indicated on the portal of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) while applying for higher pension, has been bothering employees, pensioners and employers alike as this stipulation, according to the employees and employers, was never made known to them earlier. As per the portal, applicants had to submit documents to establish that they had got permissions under the para 26(6) when the ceiling was ₹5,000 (up to May 31, 2001) and ₹6,500 (up to August 31, 2014).

The Minister informed the Rajya Sabha that the joint option under paragraph 26(6) of the EPF Scheme "is a requirement which predates the EPS", and had been required as per provisions of the EPF Scheme, 1952. He maintained that in the portal, "the process for submission of joint options for higher pension is simple and easy to understand.

Protests at 10,000 points across nation against diluting MGNREGA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The All India Agricultural Workers Union (AIAWU) has decided to hold nationwide protests at 10,000 centres demanding proper implementation of the MGNREGA and the National Food Security Act.

A working committee meeting of the AIAWU, held here on Thursday, also decided to oppose the move to link MGNREGA job cards with Aadhaar number, saying that it was leading to exclusion of poor people from accessing jobs.

AIAWU leaders also said that rural unemployment was at its highest rate now.

APPEAL

Master Sohel Alam, Elder son of MD Asif Alam 8 years admitted in Christian Medical College, is suffering from Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life threatening blood disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately **Rs. 15,00,000**/-.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Sohel Alam. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855. You can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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BJP tough on corruption, nepotism; social justice not just a slogan: Modi

Addressing workers on party's foundation day, he warns them against complacency ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha election; Opposition parties are battling an existential crisis and therefore, have resorted to levelling allegations against BJP, PM says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was a party committed to, and capable of, taking "tough steps" to rid the country of corruption and nepotism, with social justice being not just a political slogan for the party but an article of faith.

At the same time, he warned against complacency among party workers with regard to the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

He was addressing the 44th foundation day of the BJP by video conference, with his speech being screened at 10 lakh points across the country for access by party leaders and workers.

"BJP is working with the mantra of *Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas-Sabka Vishwas* and *Sabka Prayas* [With everyone, for the development of all, with the trust and effort of all]. We have always given topmost priority to social justice and empowerment in our hearts and working style. Social justice is not a part of political sloganeering for us but an article of faith for us," he said.

Setting the tone: Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressing BJP leaders and workers on Thursday. ANI

"[The] BJP lives social justice, follows it in letter and spirit. Getting 80 crore people free rations is a reflection of social justice. The facility of free treatment up to ₹5 lakh, offered to 50 crore poor people without discrimination is a strong expression of social justice," he added.

'Tied to dynasty'

Mr. Modi slammed the Congress, and other political parties which, he claimed, carried the culture of the main Opposition party, accusing them of being tied to nepotism, dynasty, casteism and regionalism. The BJP represents a new culture of taking everyone along, he asserted.

"People have already started saying that no one can defeat the BJP in 2024. This is true, but as BJP workers we have to win the heart of every citizen of the country," he said.

Without specifically referring to the various allegations they have made against his government, the Prime Minister said that Opposition parties had been battling an "existential crisis" and had therefore resorted to levelling allegations and conspiracies against the BJP.

"Today, they have become so desperate that they have openly started saying *Modi teri kabar khudegi* (your grave will be dug)," he said, asserting that the support of the poor, tribal people, backward class communities, Dalits and women among others will continue to protect the 'lotus' and help it bloom. "These people with a *baadshahi* (feudal) mindset treated others, especially the poor and deprived, as slaves. But these people have been empowered by the BJP since 2014," he said.

"The BJP has taken birth from the womb of democracy, and has been nourished and nurtured with the nectar of democracy," the Prime Minister added.

Mr. Modi drew parallels between Lord Hanuman, whose birth anniversary was observed on Thursday, to assert that the party believed in the ideals of selfless service. India was realising its potential and strength after 2014 just like Lord Hanuman did after eliminating self-doubt, Mr. Modi said.

Ogilvy's communication for *The Hindu* wins silver at Olive Crown Awards

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The India Chapter of the International Advertising Association hosted the 13th edition of the Olive Crown Awards, 2023 on Wednesday at the ITC Grand Central, Parel, Mumbai.

The awards were instituted in 17 categories to commend the remarkable work of individuals and corporates who drove the message of sustainability or 'green advertising'.

P.N. Mohan of the Rotary Club of Madras won the coveted 'Green Crusader of the Year' award for his commitment to restore seven lakes near Chennai and mobilising people and funds for the cause.

Famous Innovations bagged 10 awards across categories, including the 'Green Agency Of The Year.' In the 'Corporate Crusader of The Year' category, Kirloskar Limitless won the gold award for their work 'A Minute For Nature.' Livpure received gold award in the 'Green Campaign of the Year' for 'Rally for Rivers.'

Ogilvy won a silver award for a communication 'The Inconsiderate Planet' that they made for *The Hindu*.

Grand honour: Ogilvy and *The Hindu* team receiving the award on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chirag Rural Development Foundation and People for Animals Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Centre were given the gold award in the category 'Green NGO of the Year'.

Avinash Pandey, President IAA (India Chapter) said, "The Olive Crown Awards are a symbol of the intention of our Association to use communication as a force for good. The winning work should work as an inspiration to content creators and advertisers to carry this torch further."

An eminent jury comprising professionals such as Bobby Pawar, Chairman and Chief Creative Officer, Havas Group India; K.V. Sridhar, Global Chief Creative Officer, Nihilent Ltd and Hypercollective; Garima Khandelwal, Chief Creative Officer, Mullen Lintas; Raj Nair, CEO and Chief Creative Officer, Madison BMB; and Carlton D'Silva, Co-founder, House of Awe, shortlisted the winners.

The Hindu Group and ZEE Media were the associate partners; Blue Star Ltd. was the cooling partner; Aaj Tak, HT Media Group, ABP and Nexus Alliance Advertising and Marketing Pvt Ltd were the supporting partners for the event, according to a press release.

Rijiju replies to query on 'anti-India gang' remark

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha that the complaints his Ministry received regarding serving and retired judges concerned only with appointment and service conditions of serving members of the higher judiciary.

He was responding to a written question by two Rajya Sabha members on "whether as per the Union Minister for Law and Justice, a few former judges of the Supreme Court are part of an anti-India gang".

Source of information

The query also asked the Minister to reveal the source of the information and whether in view of national security, the government had informed the Chief Justice of India and the Union Home Ministry.

Their question follows a claim made by Mr. Rijiju in an television interview that some retired judges were part of the 'anti-India gang' that was targeting the Narendra Modi government.

In the English version of the reply, the Minister evaded a direct answer but in the Hindi version, he said *ji nahin* [No] to subquestions from A to D.

"From time to time, complaints are received in the Department of Justice [in the Law Ministry] against sitting as well as retired judges of Supreme Court and High courts," the Minister said in the English version of his reply.

He added that complaints related to retired judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts were not handled by the Department of Justice.

Congress member Amee Yajniok had cited a study to ask if 70 of the 100 retired Supreme Court judges had taken up post-retirement assignments and if that would affect the independence of the judiciary. Responding to the question, the Law Minister said such information was not centrally maintained by the Department of Justice.

In response to another question, Mr. Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha that the process of linking Aadhaar details with the voter identity card had not started yet while stating that the names of those who did not link their Aadhaar details with the voters' list would not be struck off the electoral rolls.

Cong. MP's suspension extended

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Suspension of Congress MP Rajani Patil has been extended beyond the current session, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar informed the House.

A final call will be taken based on the recommendations by the Privileges Committee to whom the matter has been referred to, Mr. Dhankhar added.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called the decision a "blatant violation" of the rules of procedure and established parliamentary traditions.

Ms. Patil was suspended based on a complaint filed by BJP MP GVL Narsimha Rao on February 10. Mr. Rao alleged that Ms. Patil, in contravention to the existing rules, was using her phone to shoot videos of the House proceedings.

Country is going towards dictatorship, says Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a rare display of unity, Opposition parties took out a joint flag march on Thursday, accusing the ruling party of disrupting Parliament.

Addressing a press conference, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge – who was accompanied by leaders from 19 other Opposition parties – said the country was heading towards "dictatorship" and "democracy will not survive" if the ruling party's actions were allowed to continue.

Mr. Kharge said that BJP members deliberately disrupted the House because they did not want a comprehensive debate on the Budget, where uncomfortable questions on the wealth amassed by the Adani Group because of the favours it got from the government could have been asked.

The Modi government, he said, talked a lot about democracy, but did not practise what it preached.

DMK leader T.R. Baalu fielded the question on whether Mr. Gandhi could be the prime challenger on behalf of the united Opposition to Mr. Modi.

"It was because of the government's hegemonic attitude they disrupted the House. First time Treasury benches disrupted proceedings," he said, ducking the question.

Mr. Baalu said that all issues would be discussed going forward to strengthen the Opposition.

Centre, Opposition blame each other for washout of Budget Session's second leg

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

According to data, while Lok Sabha's productivity crashed to 5.29, Rajya Sabha's plummeted to 6.4%

The Budget Session of Parliament concluded according to schedule on Thursday.

But the four-week second leg of the session got washed out over the Opposition's demand to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) and the demand from Treasury benches that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi apologise for his "democracy under attack" comment made in London.

The acrimony between the government and the Opposition sharpened after Mr. Gandhi was disqualified from the Lok Sabha.

Data released by the Lok Sabha Secretariat showed that the House had a 83.8% productivity rate in the first part of the Budget Session, which crashed to just 5.29% in the second part.

In the Rajya Sabha, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said that the productivity of the first part of the Budget Session was 56.3%, which plummeted to an abysmal 6.4% in the second part.

On Thursday, floor leaders from most of the Opposition parties boycotted the customary tea meeting hosted by the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

The disruptions on the last day of the session also triggered a blame game between Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Malllikarjun Kharge and Law Minister Kiren Rijiju. Mr. Kharge blamed the Narendra Modi-led government for the washout while the latter accused the Congress of insulting Parliament by wearing black clothes and that too only for Mr. Gandhi.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned *sine die* or for an indefinite period, as Opposition members continued their agitation for a JPC probe into the Adani issue. "This behaviour is not good for parliamentary system and the country," Mr. Birla said. In the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Dhankhar noted that the session came to a close on a "note of concern" and pointed out that "disorder" has become the new "order".

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said that during the full Budget session the overall productivity of the Lok Sabha was 34%, and that of the Rajya Sabha was 24.4%.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
O/O.CHIEF ENGINEER
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Adv. No. 02/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24, NIT N0.05/SE-I/2023-24 & 12/SE-II/2023-24,Dated: 04/04/2023
Name of Works: (1) Construction of New Central Kitchen Facility at SVIMS premises (Adjacent to BIRRD Generator Room), Tirupati. Amt 715.00 Lakhs. Time for completion 12 Months & **(2)** Facility Management Services for house-keeping, sanitation and Maintenance of Sri Vari Sevasadan I&II, PAC-III, PAC-IV, Mathrusri Vakulamata Devi Rest House (MVDRH) and B Type Quarters 24 nos, D type -25 nos & Staff Quarters (SQ) 30 nos at Tirumala Under VI Package for the years 2023-2026 (3years). Open tender type, Time for Completion 36 months. Note : For full details log onto the website **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in or http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in/**
ROC No. PR4/13953/Adv. No.04/ PRO/2023, Dated: 06.04.2023 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
BIRRD TRUST HOSPITAL, TIRUPATI
e-TENDER NOTICE
BIRRD Trust Hospital, TTD, Tirupati is inviting e-Tenders from the eligible Manufacturers/ Firms/ Authorized Distributors for the work **"Supply Installation & Commissioning of Various allied Biological Laboratory Equipments required for up-gradation of Ultra-Modern Lab Technology at BIRRD"**. NIT ROC No. TTD-104022(31)/2/2022-BIRRD-TTD in AP e-Proc. Portal. Date of Upload Tender on 07.04.2023 and closing date: 20.04.2023. For details log on to the website **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in & http://www.tirumala.org/ Contact No. 9849417888**
ROC No. PR4/13953/Adv. No.05/ PRO/2023, Dated: 06.04.2023 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत हनुमानगढ़
क्रमांक : 4034-41 दिनांक : 27.03.2023
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 10/2022-23
इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से जिला हनुमानगढ़ में विभिन्न नवीन ग्रामीण सड़कों का निर्माण कार्य (मय पांच वर्ष के दोष निवारण व सुधार अवधि) कुल 08 कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत 2326.00 लाख रू. हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्यों के निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 10.04.2023 (सोमवार) सायं 6.00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। उक्त निविदा से संबंधित विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्यूरमेंट पोर्टल http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व विभागीय वेबसाइट http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं। कार्य का एन.आई.बी. नं. - PWD2223A4928
यू.बी.एन. नं.- PWD2223WSOB19801, PWD2223WSOB19802, PWD2223WSOB19805, PWD2223WSOB19806, PWD2223WSOB19807, PWD2223WSOB19808, PWD2223WSOB19809, PWD2223WSOB19810
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/5030/23 सा.नि.वि. वृत हनुमानगढ़

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
RKVY Project, Establishment of Biosafety level-3 (BSL-3) facility for the diagnosis of emerging zoonotic diseases
Post Graduate Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (PGIVER), Jaipur
Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (RAJUVAS)
NH-11, Agra Road, Jamdoli, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302031
Email: pirkvyprojectcdsrz@gmail.com Contact: 9414250161
Notice Inviting Bid (NIB)
No. F. ( )/PGIVER/ CDSRZ/ 2022-23/358 Date: 25-03-2023
Electronic Bids are invited from eligible original manufactures/ importers / authorized distributors on E-Procurement portal for Establishment of BSL-3 Laboratory on Turnkey Basis of estimated cost Rs 215.00 lacs. All the details, terms and conditions related to this E-Tender-02 are available on SPPP website **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.rajuvas.org** and further can be downloaded and uploaded for Electronic submission on E-Proc. website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** from 27-03-2023 to 27-04-2023 by 3:00 PM and PRE-BID Meeting scheduled on 04-04-2023 at 11:00 AM at above address.
UBN No. VAU2223WSOB00195
Raj.Samwad/C/23/209 **Principal Investigator CDSRZ & BSL-3**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DHENKANAL (R&B) DIVISION, DHENKANAL
Email - eedklpwd@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. SEDKL (R&B). 40 / 2022-23
Invitation for Bids

1.	The Superintending Engineer Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in Double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building works as detailed below.		
2.	Nature of work	:	**Building Works (4 Nos)**
3.	No. of work	:	**04 Nos.**
4.	Bid Cost	:	**₹.10,000/-**
5.	Class of Contractor	:	**'B' & 'A' Class**
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	**From 10.00 AM of 11.04.2023 to 5.00 PM of 25.04.2023**
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	**Dt.26.04.2023 at 11.00 AM**
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal.
B-30: OIPR-34016/11/0001/2324

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(A Govt. of India Society, Ministry of Power)
Post Box No.8066, Prof. Sir. C.V.Raman Road
Sadashivanagar Post Office, Bangalore - 560 080.
ADVERTISEMENT NO. CPRI/06/2023
CPRI invites applications for one position of **Engineering Consultant on purely temporary basis**. Interested candidates may refer website **https://cpri.res.in** for details regarding eligibility criteria, educational qualification etc. and submit their application as per the prescribed format posted in website with all relevant copies of documents by post latest by **15.04.2023**. Applications received after the due date will not be considered.
Chief Administrative Officer

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड नोखा
क्रमांक: 3316-3325 दिनांक: 28.03.2023
Short Term Notice Inviting Bid-18/2022-23
Bids for Various Works related Construction of Roads U.C. to B.T. and Building Works are invited from interested bidders upto 29.03.2023 (09:30 AM) to 10.04.2023 (06:00 PM), other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procuremet portal http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in & eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in of the state and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1109.00 Lakh.
NIB Code No.: PWD2223A4958, PWD2223WSOB19982, PWD2223WSOB19985, PWD2223WSOB19987, PWD2223WSOB19988, PWD2223WSOB19990, PWD2223WSOB20000, PWD2223WSOB020003
DIPR/C/5038/2023 **Executiev Engineer PWD Dn. Nokha**

RAJASTHAN POLICE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD,JAIPUR
(Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
CIN NO. U45201RJ2013SGC083014
Regd. Office:756, Police Head Quarter, Lal Kothi, Jaipur(Raj.)
Phone: 0141-2740784, Fax: 0141-2744294, e-mail: rpidcl@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांकः– RPHCCL/469/NIT/2022-23/D-1002 दिनांकः 28.03.2023
ई–निविदा सूचना सं0 31/2022–23
निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए राज्य/केन्द्र सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों/उपक्रमों में समकक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत योग्य एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से नियमानुसार पाँच वर्षो की डीएलपी के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्र में 01 कार्य के लिए Two Bid System के तहत निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा की कुल लागत	रूपये 414 लाख
ऑन लाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख	03 अप्रेल 2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 24 अप्रेल 2023 सायं 4.00 बजे तक
ऑन लाईन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख	24 अप्रेल 2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ऑन लाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	25 अप्रेल 2023 सायं 4.00 बजे

निविदा सम्बन्धित जानकारी राजस्थान पुलिस की वेबसाइट **www.police.rajasthan.gov.in** **www.sppp.raj.nic.in** एवं **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी। इच्छुक संवेदको को निविदा संबंधित जानकारी प्रबन्ध निदेशक कार्यालय से कार्यालय समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है। भविष्य में निविदाओं में संशोधन होने पर उपरोक्त वेबसाइटों पर ही प्रेषित किया जावेगा। **UBN: RID2223WSOB00338**
राज.संवाद/सी/23/208 **महाप्रबन्धक**

NBCC (India) Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NBCC (India) Ltd. on behalf of Puducherry Smart City Development Ltd. invites online open e-tenders from eligible contractors for implementation of following Projects at Puducherry.

S. No.	Name of work	NIT No	Estimated Amount in INR
1	Construction of Pudumai Building at Goubert Avenue, Puducherry	NBCC/SBG/South/Smart City/Pudchry/Works/2023 /32 Dated 29/03/2023	4,04,22,091.00
2	Development & Improvement of Botanical Garden and Development of ECO Tourism within the Urban Forest Area in Swadeshi Mill (Refurbishment of existing built up space) at puducherry	NBCC/SBG/South/Smart City/Pudchry/Works/2023 /33 Dated 30/03/2023	15,07,08,949.00
3	Development of existing bus station as a Smart Integrated Bus Terminus (4.5 acres) with 25000 sqft commercial space at Puducherry	NBCC/SBG/South/Smart City/Pudchry/Works/2023 /35 Dated 06/04/2023	32,38,98,967.00
4	Development and Improvement of Market - Goubert Market (2.9 acres) at Puducherry	NBCC/SBG/South/Smart City/Pudchry/Works/2023 /36 Dated 06/04/2023	58,27,30,298.00

The detailed tender documents and corrigendum if any can be downloaded from website https://nbcc.enivida.com and https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app.
THE BIDDER CAN UPLOAD THE ONLINE TENDER ONLY ON https://nbcc.enivida.com.
Chief General Manager (Engg.) (SBG-South)

INBRIEF

Agniveers to clear written test for recruitment in CRPF

Agniveers who have been assured a 10% reservation in the paramilitary forces, will have to clear a written examination before they are recruited. This was made clear for the first time on Thursday, when amended rules were notified by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for the recruitment of constables. The rules replace a 2010 notification. As announced earlier by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Agniveers according to the fresh notification, are spared of the physical efficiency test and would get an age relaxation of three years. The first batch of Agniveers would get an exemption of five years. The CRPF rules are a likely template for all other Central Armed Police Forces.

Mehbooba's daughter gets passport only for 2 years

Iltija Mufti, daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, has been granted a point-to-point passport valid for two years by the Passport Office in Kashmir. The J&K Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has submitted an adverse report against her and classified the report as "Top Secret" under the Official Secret Act (OSA). Davinder Kumar, Passport Officer, Srinagar, in a response to the High Court, said that Ms. Mufti, who sought to pursue higher studies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), had been issued a passport "valid up to 04/04/2025". Ms. Mufti said, "The only reason it's (police verification) has been filed in a sealed cover is because they have nothing substantial against me."

Avoid alcohol at conferences, says DGHS advisory to doctors

Alcohol in any form should be avoided in medical conferences/ workshops/ seminars/ continuing medical education (CME) sessions, the Director-General of Health Services (DGHS) told doctors in its latest advisory, stating that they should set an example of good habits, which can be emulated by others. The advisory comes around the same time as the National Medical Commission (NMC) guidelines that listed the professional responsibilities of medical students, teachers, and institutes, which it claimed was brought in to instil a sense of responsibility.

Marry Hindus for a happy life, VHP leader tells Muslim girls

In a controversial statement, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Sadhvi Prachi on Thursday asked Muslim girls to marry Hindu boys, claiming that they would be able to lead a happy life, free from wearing black clothes or from *talaq* (divorce). Ms. Prachi, who reached the circuit house in Bareilly, also added that if the DNA test of the people living in India was done, then everyone's ancestors would be found to be linked to Lord Ram, Lord Krishna and Baba Bholenath. Over the question of violence in Bihar and West Bengal on Ram Navami, the VHP leader said that President's rule should be imposed in the States.

Govt. releases pre-draft of National Curriculum Framework for schools

The Education Ministry puts out document seeking feedback from various stakeholders; recommendations include modular Board exams instead of single exam at year-end for Classes 11 and 12, and basing result on cumulative score

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Education released a "pre-draft" version of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education on Thursday, and has sought feedback from various stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, teacher educators, experts, scholars and professionals.

"While giving your feedback, it needs to be kept in view that this is a pre-draft of the NCF-SE which still requires several rounds of discussion within the National Steering Committee (NSC). Feedback from diverse stakeholders will further help NSC to look critically into different modalities and approaches that this framework is proposing," the Ministry said.

The pre-draft covers the framework of curriculum for age groups 3 to 18. Feedback can be sent by email to ncf.ncert@ciet.nic.in

A key part of the document is inclusion of values and its "rootedness" in India.

The pre-draft says, "It is deeply rooted in India. This is in content and learning of languages, in the pedagogical approaches including tools and resources and in philosophical basis – in the aims and in the epistemic approach."

The document further says that it leans towards making students acquainted with true sources of knowledge, which have been a philosophical preoccupation of ancient Indians. These sources focus on six *pramanas*: *pratyaksa*, interpreted as perception through five senses; *anumana*, which uses inferences to come to new conclusions; *upamana*, which is knowing through analogy and comparison; *arthapatti*, which involves knowing through circumstantial implication, *anupalabdhi*, which includes perception of non-existence, and *sabda*, which the document explains is "something an individual can only directly know a fraction of all reality through direct experience and inference but must rely on other experts was acknowledged thousands of years ago".

Guiding principles: The pre-draft of the National Curriculum Framework puts emphasis on all-round development. R.V. MOORTHY

Moral development

A part of the document focuses on the moral development of a child through *panchakosha vikas* or five-fold development. This concept is an ancient explanation of the importance of the body-mind link in human experience and understanding.

The pre-draft recommends developing moral values for the child through a balanced diet, traditional games, yoga asanas, as well as a wide variety of stories, songs, lullabies, poems, prayers to develop a love for cultural context.

The pre-draft says that for Grade 10 certification, students will have to take two essential courses from humanities, maths and computing, vocational education, physical education, arts education, social science, science and interdisciplinary areas. In Grade 11 and 12, students will be offered choice-based courses in the same disciplines for more rigorous engagement.

Arts education will include music, dance, theatre, sculpture, painting, set design, scriptwriting, while inter-disciplinary areas will include knowledge of India, traditions and practices of Indian knowledge systems.

For Class 11 and 12, the document states, "Modular Board Exams will be offered as opposed to a single exam at the end of the year and final result will be based on cumulative result of each exam."

The document focuses on the importance of questioning by giving examples of the Upanishads.

Loss in wheat production is minimal, says Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Even as farmers' organisations declared huge losses for wheat crops due to untimely rain in the northern parts of the country, the Centre expressed confidence that the loss in production would not vary much from the target of 112 million tonnes this rabi season.

Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra told reporters on Thursday that officials are on the ground in wheat-growing States such as Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, assessing the damage. He said there had been reports of some damage from 16 districts of Punjab and some parts of Haryana. "We are also expecting that as the low temperature continues, the yield will be more in unaffected areas, and also in those late-sown areas in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Loss in production will be very minimum," he said.

The Centre has so far, procured 2.5 to 3.5 lakh tonnes of wheat from Madhya Pradesh.

Full circle for Odisha IAS officer: from abduction to review of transformation

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

A visit to a remote place, an overnight stay and the review of government programmes sounds like a routine affair for any IAS officer. But for R. Vineel Krishna, Special Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the night stay at the Badapada government facility in Swabhiman Anchal in Odisha's Malkangiri district last week – his first time after a 12-year gap – was something emotive, yet meaningful.

Mr. Krishna's return to the very place from where he was abducted by armed cadres of the CPI(Maoist) on February 16, 2011 finally revealed the transformation which he had hoped to bring about as a young Collector of the Maoist-affected Malkangiri district.

The 2005-batch IAS officer, who was part of a high-level official delegation comprising Development Commissioner Anu Garg and 5T Secretary V. K. Pandian, was served food by young members of self-help groups inside Swabhiman Anchal, once a bastion of left-wing extremists (LWEs).

R. Vineel Krishna

The people of Swabhiman Anchal, who were earlier perceived as sympathisers of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), seemed to interact with the officers without any fear, as they aired their grievances and gave suggestions for improvement in the region.

"Swabhiman Anchal should be a model of how transformation can be brought in," said Mr. Krishna. Back in February 2011, his abduction had set the stage for a nine-day-long negotiation between the Odisha government and left-wing extremist-backed interlocutors, bringing the entire administration to its knees.

Asked whether he was scared to revisit the region, Mr. Krishna said, "Swabhiman Anchal has come a long way from the erstwhile cut-off area. I have myself adopted Badapada High School. During my stint in Odisha Mining Corporation, I had taken a lead to distribute 7,000 mobile phones in all households, enabling students to read online during the COVID-19 pandemic. During my abduction, I remained unharmed because the people backed me. Development is the answer to the remoteness of any region. Swabhiman Anchal is a bright example."

Distribution of fortified rice through PDS on track

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As many as 269 districts in 27 States have started distributing fortified rice under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), achieving a 100% target set for Phase II by March 2023 in the Rice Fortification Programme, said Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra here on Thursday.

He said 105 lakh tonnes of fortified rice was lifted by Phase II. "In addition, about 29 lakh tonnes was lifted by the States/ UTs under the Integrated Child Development Services and PM POSHAN in Phase II, making a total of about 134 LMT fortified rice, lifted in 2022-23," he said.

When asked about the complaints against fortified rice from certain States such as Kerala, the Food Secretary said, "We are looking into scientific evidence of these complaints. People take time to accept any new product in the market."

Committee formed for rethink on NPS for govt. employees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Thursday notified the formation of a committee to review the pension system for government employees as announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament, while moving amendments to the Finance Bill of 2023.

Some States, ruled by parties other than the BJP, have announced a switchover for employees covered by the National Pension System (NPS) to the Old Pension Scheme that assured 50% of last drawn salaries as pension, while States such as Maharashtra, where the BJP is part of the ruling alliance, are mulling the same.

The order does not specify a deadline for the panel, which Ms. Sitharaman had said was being formed as "representations have been received that the NPS for government employees needs to be improved". The Minister told the Lok Sabha on March 24 that the approach developed by the committee would apply to the Centre as well as the States.

Somanathan at helm

The four-member committee will be led by Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan and includes the chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) that oversees the NPS adopted for government employees hired on or after January 1, 2004.

The NPS offers no guaranteed pension.

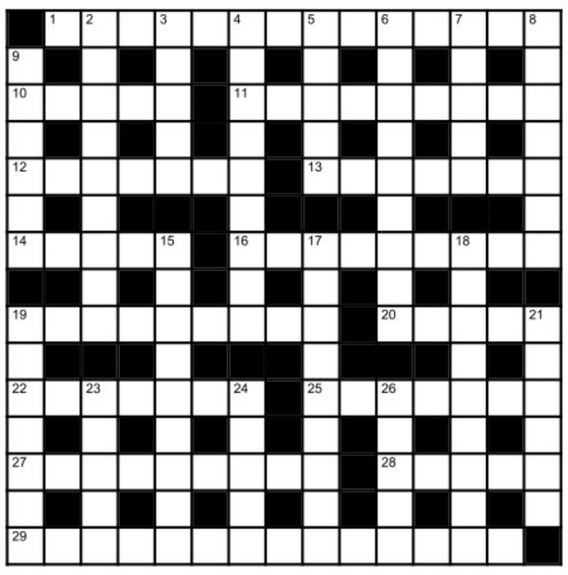
The committee, which will also include Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training and Special Secretary in the Department of Expenditure of the Finance Ministry, has been tasked with evolving an approach that addresses government employees' needs while maintaining fiscal prudence to protect the common citizens, said an official order.

TH CROSSWORD + 13833

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Subject of study — limited edition, thin book in a large fancy cover (7,7)
10 Strong and loud, they mix around (5)
11 Caught in a difficult situation Harry learns, finally (9)
12 Cover girl could be a star... (7)
13 ...neither can transform in that place (7)
14 Nothing slack under the arch (5)
16 Press stud — animal follows steam locomotive (4,5)
19 Shake a leg, me and Mary, perhaps (9)
20 Strip it by swapping binary digits (5)
22 Starts with Laurel and Hardy, will manage to survive (4,3)
25 Aversion as partner gets some work done (7)
27 Trip a bit and break down (4,5)
28 Drinks from top to bottom — the pig (5)
29 Comparison with tree — maybe they're of the same age (14)

Down

2 Seed — not on season (9)
3 Primarily lot of young actors later become dependable (5)
4 Emaciated sort of compound (9)
5 Virtue of a small group (5)
6 Right in the gap, with those assorted ammunition (9)
7 Girl longs to get into the competition (5)
8 A new Italian poet is moderately slow in movement (7)
9 He is stupid to admit a peasant (6)
15 Surface raised, gold had to vanish (9)
17 Another separator for Luciano Pavarotti, say (5,4)
18 River port name — inform (3,6)
19 No substance in false claim, may turn out to be evil (7)
21 Extremely cheerful as new tax regime gets parliamentary approval (6)
23 Parlour in Paris — a long way off (5)
24 President's down and out, had a change of heart (5)
26 What you've to pay between hands is comparatively less (5)

SUDOKU

			7			5		
2					9		4	
	1	7		5		6		
9	2		1	7			6	
			4		2			
	7			6	8		3	5
		2		4		9	5	
	3		8					4
		4			6			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS5761 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

P	O	L	Y	P	U	S	■	D	E	C	O	R	U	M
Y	■	I	■	R	■	I	■	I	■	A	■	O	■	A
R	O	M	E	O	■	M	I	N	O	R	S	U	I	T
O	■	E	■	O	■	P	■	G	■	J	■	S	■	I
P	O	R	T	F	O	L	I	O	■	A	C	T	O	N
E	■	E	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	C	■	■	■	S
■	G	N	A	T	■	T	H	I	N	K	I	N	G	■
■	■	C	■	O	■	O	■	C	■	E	■	A	■	■
■	D	E	N	O	U	N	C	E	■	D	O	U	R	■
C	■	■	■	T	■	■	■	L	■	■	■	S	■	A
R	E	T	C	H	■	P	H	A	R	I	S	E	E	S
O	■	O	■	P	■	R	■	N	■	S	■	A	■	T
P	E	T	R	I	F	I	E	D	■	L	A	T	T	E
U	■	E	■	C	■	O	■	E	■	A	■	E	■	R
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	■	R	A	M	A	D	A	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	1	4	6	9	2	3	5	8
9	2	8	1	5	3	4	6	7
3	6	5	7	4	8	1	2	9
6	8	3	2	7	4	5	9	1
4	9	1	8	3	5	6	7	2
2	5	7	9	1	6	8	4	3
1	4	2	5	8	9	7	3	6
5	7	6	3	2	1	9	8	4
8	3	9	4	6	7	2	1	5

FAITH

Glory of Jesus

On the Vatican, high above, is one symbol – the Cross – that brings together all the peoples of this world. Our Christian forefathers had a choice of many symbols, but they chose the Cross. It's a visible symbol in millions of homes, and worn on a chain by Christians and clergy alike. Today, it's an ornamental symbol, dangling as a pendant even among partygoers. However, the cross in the times of Jesus Christ was an instrument of death. The Cross was chosen to call to our remembrance that Jesus had a mission, in allowing Himself to be crucified, Reverend W.J. Samuel said in a lecture.

That a Messiah will come into the world was prophesied hundreds of years before Christ was born. Isaiah 53 gives a wonderful account of the prophecies on Christ. The Old Testament records 60 prophesies of the Messiah who was to come and all these prophesies were fulfilled in one person. Jesus walked dusty roads, climbed mountains and hills to preach and pray. His hands reached out to bless and heal. Pilate, who was judging Jesus, said, "I find no fault in Him at all" and yet allowed Him to be taken away to be crucified. This Cross was bearing the Son of God who had come on a Mission. In John 10:10, He says, "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." The abundant life is a life that is close to God and in obedience to His will. Jesus always taught that sins of others against us are small in comparison to our sins against God. So, before we ask God to forgive us, we need to forgive those who have sinned against us. To hold a grudge is one of the greatest impediments to love and that's why Jesus said, "Father, forgive them."

TOKYO

Japan's Army says helicopter carrying 10 crashed into ocean

FILE PHOTO

A missing Japanese Army helicopter carrying 10 crew members is believed to have crashed into the sea off a southern island after objects appearing to be aircraft parts were spotted in the area, an official said on Thursday. The UH-60JA Black Hawk helicopter disappeared from radar on Thursday afternoon. AP

BANGKOK

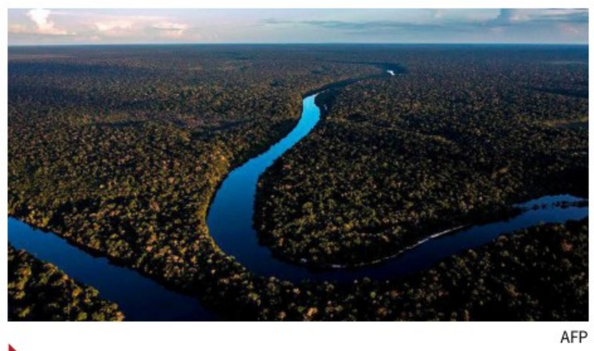
Thousands fleeing Myanmar fighting cross Thai border: officials

AP

Thousands of people have fled into Thailand following fierce fighting between Myanmar rebels and the military, Thai officials said on Thursday. "Around 3,998 people have fled into Thailand's temporary shelter" across 10 areas, a statement said. Government agencies and NGOs were providing people with food and water. AFP

PARIS

Amazon forests save $2 billion in pollution healthcare, says study



AFP

Rainforests on Indigenous lands in Brazil's Amazon protect millions of people from heart and lung diseases by absorbing pollution and save $2 billion a year in healthcare costs, researchers said in a study published on Thursday, urging increased protection against deforestation. AFP

TAIPEI

China promises 'forceful' steps after U.S.-Taiwan meeting

AFP

China on Thursday vowed reprisals against Taiwan after a meeting between the United States House speaker Kevin McCarthy and the island's President Tsai Ing-wen, saying that the U.S. was on a "wrong and dangerous road." Meanwhile, the Biden administration maintains there is nothing provocative about the visit. AP

Macron tells China's Xi to reason with Russia for peace in Ukraine

French President says 'the Russian aggression in Ukraine has dealt a blow to international stability', and asks his Chinese counterpart to press Moscow to comply with international rules on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

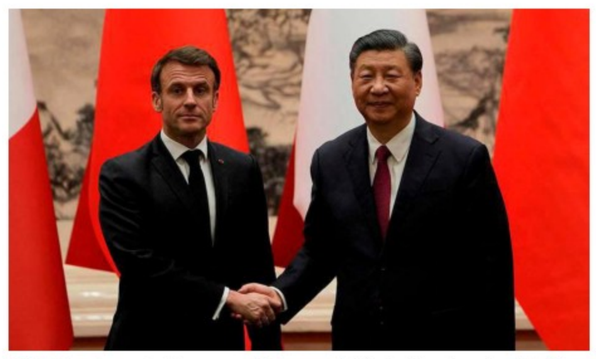
Reuters
BEIJING

French President Emmanuel Macron urged China's Xi Jinping on Thursday to reason with Russia and help bring an end to the war in Ukraine as the two held the first of a series of high-level meetings in Beijing.

"The Russian aggression in Ukraine has dealt a blow to [international] stability," Mr. Macron told Mr. Xi, standing alongside the Chinese President outside the Great Hall of the People ahead of their meeting. "I know I can count on you to bring back Russia to reason and everyone back to the negotiating table."

Mr. Macron also asked Mr. Xi to press Russia to comply with international rules on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said he will station tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine's neighbour Belarus, a move seen as a dangerous escalation in the bloody year-long conflict.

Mr. Macron's visit alongside EU chief Ursula von der Leyen comes after years of souring relations with Beijing over issues ranging from a stalled investment pact to China's reluctance to condemn Russia over its Ukraine invasion. But addressing the press after his arrival on Wednesday, Mr. Macron said Europe must resist reducing trade and diplomatic ties with China and reject what some have cast as an "inescapable spiral" of tension between China and the West.



High-level meet: Emmanuel Macron (left) shaking hands with Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday. AFP

Ms. Von der Leyen, on her first trip to China since taking office as European Commission president in 2019, was also due to meet Mr. Xi later before all three hold trilateral talks in the evening. Mr. Macron also met with Premier Li Qiang before meeting Mr. Xi for an elaborate ceremony outside the Great Hall, where the two leaders witnessed a 21-gun salute and strode side-by-side along a red carpet as a brass band played their national anthems.

In comments reported by state media *CCTV*, Mr. Xi said China and France have the ability and responsibility to transcend "differences" and "restraints" as the world undergoes profound historical changes.

Saudi Arabia, Iran reach agreement on joint plan

Associated Press
BEIJING

Iran and Saudi Arabia have agreed to jointly pursue economic stability, the Iranian Foreign Minister said on Thursday, as well as reopen missions in their respective countries as the regional rivals stepped toward reconciliation after seven years of tension.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian made the announcement in a tweet after talks with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, in Beijing. The ministers also agreed on Thursday to reopen embassies in the countries' respective capitals and representative offices in two other major cities.

The rapprochement not only lowers the chance of armed conflict between the Mid-East rivals - both directly and in proxy conflicts around the region - but also represents a major diplomatic victory for the Chinese as Gulf Arab states perceive the United States slowly withdrawing from the wider region.

Hossein Amirabdollahian

It comes as diplomats have been trying to end a long war in Yemen, a conflict in which both Iran and Saudi Arabia are deeply entrenched.

Improving ties

Mr. Amirabdollahian's tweet came after Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said foreign ministers from both nations had signed a joint statement and expressed their determination to improve ties in line with their talks in Beijing last month.

On Thursday morning, Saudi Arabia's state-run Al-Ekhbariya TV showed the Iranian and Saudi ministers shaking hands and sitting side-by-side.

It was the first formal meeting of senior diplomats from the two nations since 2016, when the kingdom broke ties with Iran after protesters invaded Saudi diplomatic posts there.

Biden review of Afghan withdrawal blames Trump

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

A U.S. review led by the National Security Council of the chaotic 2021 withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan largely lays the blame on former President Donald Trump. The White House on Thursday publicly released a 12-page summary of the results, taking little responsibility for its own actions during some of the darkest moments of Mr. Biden's presidency.

Rocket salvo from Lebanon targets Israel after clashes

Agence France-Presse
FASSUTA

A barrage of rockets was fired from Lebanon at Israel on the Jewish Passover holiday on Thursday, in the largest escalation along the frontier since Israel and Hezbollah fought a 34-day war in 2006.

Israel's Army said it had "identified 34 rockets that were fired from Lebanese territory into Israeli territory" and that 25 were intercepted by Israeli air defences.

"Five rockets landed in Israeli territory," added the Army statement that followed the attack, which was not immediately claimed by any group.

The rocket fire came just days after Israeli police drew widespread condemnation and warnings of retaliation from around the region for clashing with Palestinians inside Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque – Islam's third-holiest site.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday was "receiving continuous updates about the security situation and will conduct an assessment with the heads of the security establishment", his office said.

Israeli emergency services reported a man had been lightly wounded by shrapnel and a female was injured while running to a shelter.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon called for restraint.

Against the backdrop of violent scenes at al-Aqsa mosque, India on Thursday urged all sides to maintain calm.

(With PTI inputs)

THE HINDU GROUP

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A BG-BGE

Can Pakistan pick up the pieces?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Amit Baruah

A divided Supreme Court and a political class split down the middle are only toppings for a country that appears to be in a permanently failing state as ordinary Pakistanis deal with runaway inflation, a depreciating rupee and falling growth.

The inability of the Election Commission of Pakistan, the country's Supreme Court and the government to agree on a date to hold elections in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa is a sign that all institutions are in a race to the bottom.

Punjab, if the writ of a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court runs, will go to the polls on May 14 but Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his government are loath to release funds for the elections and provide security in an embattled country.

Imran Khan

If we look at the past as practice, the "stallions of Rawalpindi", to borrow a phrase from the Pakistani columnist, Ayaz Amir, would have been at the gates of Islamabad a long time ago. A few jeeps of the 111 Brigade, the favoured troops for coups, would have been stationed outside key locations in Islamabad (as happened last in 1999) and it would be curtains for a civilian government.

Temporary respite

But the economic and political crises run so deep that Army Chief Asim Munir appears reluctant to take power unlike one of his predecessors, Pervez Musharraf, whose October 1999 coup created barely a ripple in Pakistan's polity.

Pakistan is currently awaiting a financial bailout, a habit it has been unable to kick. Without a fundamental restructuring of the country's economy, a bailout would serve only to bring a temporary respite to its elite.

On the political front, the man challenging the established order in Pakistan is none other than Imran Khan, who was a darling of the establishment, until things soured between him and the former Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa in 2022. Mr. Khan appears to have support from a section of the Supreme Court, whose actions have ensured the interests of the former Prime Minister.

Gen. Bajwa and his ilk turned again to the Pakistan Muslim League (N) of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to stave off the challenge from Mr. Khan, whose diehard supporters continue to display their street power. The PML (N), which is in coalition with the Pakistani People's Party (PPP), appears unable to match Mr. Khan's lung and street power in the absence of Mr. Nawaz Sharif, who is still in political exile in London.

With no agreement on when to hold provincial elections, civil society organisations have stepped into broker a deal with the warring political parties. Whether Mr. Khan and other leaders will agree on a deal to amend the Constitution to give cover to delayed provincial elections remains to be seen. And then, to ensure free and fair elections to the National Assembly.

All of Pakistan's power-hungry individuals and institutions are on trial. It remains to be seen if they can put the nation above persons to ensure that constitutional democracy lasts in the country.

INBRIEF

Adani Wilmar Q4 oil sales drop on weaker demand

Adani Wilmar Ltd. said its overall oil sales volume was dragged down in the fourth quarter by lower demand from the bakery and frying industry. The company said that the overall sales value in the quarter ended March 31 declined in high-single digit, pulled down by edible oil, which contracted in mid-teens. In the December quarter, the company clocked a 16% rise in quarterly profit helped by higher demand for its cooking oil and packaged foods. REUTERS

TVS SCS bags U.K. order for supply of Land Rover spares

TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS) has bagged a contract from the U.K. Ministry of Defence for the supply of spares, consumables and accessories for the Land Rover Wolf (a light military vehicle) platform. This agreement is for two-plus-one year, and will see TVS SCS use its accredited inventory management, procurement and supply chain expertise to ensure the optimum availability of spares for this legacy vehicle platform, TVS SCS said in a statement.

Curefoods raises ₹300 crore from Binny Bansal, others

Curefoods, a Bengaluru-based cloud kitchen operator, said it has raised funds worth ₹300 crore in a funding round led by Binny Bansal's venture capital fund Three State Ventures along with other participant companies such as IronPillar and Winter Capital, the company said in a statement. Curefoods would be deploying the fresh funds to expand its geographical reach and diversify its brands into offline formats, from the current online-only cloud kitchen presence.

FTP opens doors for some second-hand goods imports

The new Foreign Trade Policy allows the re-export of old items after repairing them in the country; the move is expected to give a boost to the export of refurbished electronic and IT goods

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) has adopted a fresh approach to the import of second-hand goods, making it possible to re-export old items after repairing them in the country.

It also paves the way for the import of used electronics and IT goods, albeit with certain restrictions.

Unrestricted imports

The import policy for second-hand goods in the purpose of repair, refurbishing, re-conditioning or re-engineering, with an intent to re-export them.

FTP 2023 outlines a new category of unrestricted imports for goods brought into the country for the

Such imports will be conditional upon importers ensuring that any waste generated during the repair or refurbishing process is treated as per domestic laws and environmental, safety and health norms.

Engineering goods exporters' body EEPC India's chief Arun Kumar Garodia told *The Hindu* that this move would encourage reconditioning and refurbishment activities for re-exports. "This will help in promoting exports of such goods," he noted.

A fresh approach

A change in import policy allows the re-export of imported items after refurbishment

- The Centre will now allow the import of second-hand goods
- The policy is expected to encourage refurbishing activities for re-exports
- Importers will have to comply with domestic laws and norms

Govt. tweaks gas pricing norms; CNG, PNG prices to come down

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Thursday revised the natural gas pricing guidelines for gas produced in the country where Production Sharing Contract (PSC) provides for Government's approval of prices. The Centre said the move would ensure stable pricing regime for domestic gas consumers and would also provide adequate protection to producers from adverse market fluctuation with incentives for enhancing production.

Announcing the decision, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said the CNG and PNG prices would see a drop of ₹5 for a kilo in major cities. "This is a 10% decrease in the prices," he said.

"The reforms will lead to significant decrease in prices of piped natural gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport," the government said. "The reduced prices shall also lower the fertiliser subsidy burden and help the domestic power sector. With the provision of a floor in gas prices as well as provision for 20% premium for new wells, this reform will incentivise ONGC and OIL to make additional long term investments in the upstream sector leading to greater production of natural gas and consequent reduction in import dependence of fossil fuels."

'Pre-approved credit lines can be availed using UPI'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday proposed to expand the scope of UPI by enabling transfer to/from pre-sanctioned credit lines at banks in a bid to further support the growth of the United Payment Interface (UPI).

"UPI network will facilitate payments financed by credit by banks," Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

"This can reduce the cost of such offerings and help in development of unique products," he added.

'RBI's pause on rates will boost business'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bankers and industry captains welcomed the Reserve Bank of India's decision to apply a pause to its interest rate increases, describing the move as perfectly timed and one which would help bolster business sentiment.

"Overall, RBI's April policy guides the market in terms of expectations' alignment," said SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara.

CII president Sanjiv Bajaj said: "We agree with the central bank's observation that the lagged impact of the past rate hikes should

Dinesh Khara

be allowed to percolate... and not stifle demand by further rate hikes".

Citi India CEO Ashu Khullar, said: "The RBI has drawn a balance between supporting economic growth and managing inflation to ensure price and financial stability".

RBI portal to help trace unclaimed deposits

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

As part of its drive to solve the problem of unclaimed deposits, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to start a web portal which will be operational in three to four months to aid beneficiaries to get back unclaimed money.

" The RBI has decided to develop a web portal to enable search across multiple banks for possible unclaimed deposits based on user inputs," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced on Thursday.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,833	0.24
US Dollar	81.89	0.01
Gold	60,370	-1.16
Brent oil	84.84	-0.01

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1754.05	56.05
Adani Ports	641.60	4.85
Apollo Hosp	4201.95	1.00
Asian Paints	2809.85	1.35
Axis Bank	851.95	-8.55
Bajaj Auto	4033.60	10.45
Bajaj Finserv	1303.95	24.65
Bajaj Finance	5932.20	170.90
Bharti Airtel	765.95	2.50
BPCL	332.00	3.95
Britannia Ind	4299.80	-27.75
Cipla	893.35	-2.40
Coal India	221.70	-0.80
Divis Lab	2921.45	31.65
Dr Reddys Lab	4699.40	16.60
Eicher Motors	2961.70	27.95
Grasim Ind	1669.05	9.80
HCL Tech	1091.85	-19.35
HDFC	2729.30	23.35
HDFC Bank	1666.35	12.60
HDFC Life	514.65	6.90
Hero MotoCorp	2426.45	-5.75
Hindalco	405.25	1.95
Hind Unilever	2565.25	-17.50
ICICI Bank	875.00	-9.60
IndusInd Bank	1082.00	14.80
Infosys	1421.90	-1.65
ITC	387.35	0.95
JSW Steel	682.70	-3.85
Kotak Bank	1757.10	5.20
L&T	2274.25	16.50
M&M	1171.25	15.80
Maruti Suzuki	8516.65	69.60
NestleIndia	19708.25	-113.80
NTPC	175.20	-0.70
ONGC	150.60	-2.30
PowerGrid Corp	225.25	-0.40
Reliance Ind	2341.45	15.60
SBI Life	1116.25	10.70
State Bank	527.65	4.65
Sun Pharma	1012.10	14.95
TataConsumerProduct	730.50	3.10
Tata Motors	437.65	11.10
Tata Steel	104.35	-0.50
TCS	3220.70	-19.10
Tech Mahindra	1092.75	-10.75
Titan	2548.45	-24.25
UltraTech Cement	7701.85	9.90
UPL	726.15	-6.15
Wipro	366.65	-3.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.69	82.01
Euro	89.10	89.48
British Pound	101.90	102.31
Japanese Yen (100)	62.11	62.38
Chinese Yuan	11.89	11.93
Swiss Franc	90.24	90.60
Singapore Dollar	61.46	61.71
Canadian Dollar	60.61	60.88
Malaysian Ringitt	18.56	18.66
Australian Dollar	54.64	54.86

Source:Indian Bank

Customs waives demurrage, interest as glitch spurs delays

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

With importers continuing to face challenges and glitches in navigating the new "upgraded and modern" Customs duty payment system introduced from April 1, the Finance Ministry on Thursday decided to waive demurrage as well as penal interest charges on delayed customs payments.

In an order, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said its Directorate General of Systems is revamping integration mechanisms for data exchange, but a large number of cases had emerged of traders being unable to complete the process "because of unanticipated technical difficulties on the

Common Portal and with the authorised banks".

Separately, customs formations have put in place special measures to expedite clearance of imports of perishable cargo, pharma goods that move in a cold chain, liquid bulk cargo as well as government consignments.

On Monday, the CBIC had acknowledged "difficulties being faced by members of the trade in making duty payments over the customs automated system" and said its "technical teams are working overtime to fix some teething issues".

The problems being temporarily noticed would "be resolved at the earliest," it had assured.

"Importers have been facing challenges owing to system glitches linked to the electronic customs ledger and the government has taken cognisance of this," said Abhishek Jain, tax partner at KPMG. "Acceptance of bank confirmations for payment of duty would help clearance of urgent imports and address commercial concerns on delays," he noted.

Chola FY23 disbursement grows 87% to ₹66,532 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd.'s (Chola) disbursements grew 65% to ₹21,020 crore for the fourth quarter ended March.

Chola had recorded 87% growth in disbursements to ₹66,532 crore in FY23, the firm said in a filing.

During Q4, while disbursements in vehicle finance business grew by 39% to ₹12,190 crore, home loans more than doubled to ₹1,405 crore. Chola had a cash balance of ₹5,222 crore with a total liquidity position of ₹6,750 crore, On Thursday, the scrip gained 7.66%, to close at ₹841.40 on the BSE.

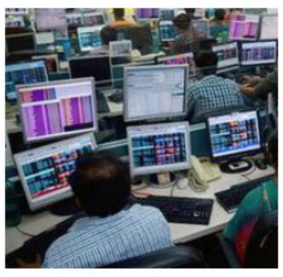
'India IT spend may total $109 bn in 2023'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IT spending in India is projected to total $108.5 billion in 2023, while global tech spend is forecast to grow 5.5% over 2022 to reach $4.6 trillion in 2023, forecast Gartner Inc.

All the regions in the world are forecast to achieve IT spending growth in 2023 despite continued economic turbulence, as per the report.

On India, Gartner said for the remainder of the calendar 2023, Indian CIOs would remain cautious, targeting their spend on IT modernisation and growth initiatives which typically involve business-led investments in applications and software-as-a-service.



According to Gartner's analysis, many Indian CIOs are embarking on cost-optimisation and efficiency programmes which are resulting in a decline in spending on data centre systems. Globally, the IT services segment would continue its growth trajectory through 2024.

TTK Healthcare proposes to delist shares from bourses

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

TTK Healthcare Ltd., a part of the TTK group, has decided to delist its shares from the bourses as the promoters feel the move would provide them enhanced business flexibility.

An announcement to acquire all shares held by the public and to voluntarily delist the shares from the bourses was made by the company on Thursday.

Promoters hold more than 1.05 crore shares, or 74.56% of all outstanding shares, and the remaining 36 lakh shares are with public shareholders.

Explaining the rationale for the move, the promoters said the company is left with a host of consumer product lines with single-digit margins in a highly competitive environment that requires separate attention and significant cash outflow.

MIXED BAG

Topley out of IPL 2023; Hasaranga and Hazlewood to arrive soon

RCB pacer Reece Topley, who suffered a shoulder injury during his team's first match against MI, has been ruled out of the tournament, head coach Sanjay Bangar said on Thursday. He also revealed that Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga will be arriving on April 10 and Australian speedster Josh Hazlewood on April 14.

PUNCH IN THE GUT

Williamson to undergo surgery, likely to miss ODI World Cup

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson is likely to miss the ODI World Cup in India later this year as he is set to undergo a surgery for the treatment of his right knee which he injured while playing for Gujarat Giants in the ongoing IPL. Scans have confirmed he has ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament of his right knee.

OUT OF SHAPE

I was trying to get our ball changed because it was like soap: Curran

I think when it comes to those situations, you know if you nail your yorker, you'll be okay. I was trying to get our ball changed because it was like soap. I don't really understand why they (Royals) got their ball changed, but we can't, said Sam Curran after the Punjab Kings-Rajasthan Royals match.

FORCED CHANGE

Meredith replaces injured Richardson at MI camp

Mumbai Indians on Thursday named Riley Meredith as a replacement for injured fast bowler Jhye Richardson. Richardson is suffering from a hamstring injury and is ruled out of the IPL. Meredith has represented the Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians in the previous editions of the IPL.

A night to remember for the Kolkata Knight Riders

Shardul and Rinku power the side to 204 for seven after it slips to 89 for five despite Gurbaz's half-century; Narine, Varun and debutant Suyash spin a web around the Royal Challengers batters

IPL-16

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Shardul Thakur underlined his immense value as an all-rounder, slamming his maiden T20 half-century and claiming a wicket, as Kolkata Knight Riders bounced back from its loss in the opening game to record an emphatic 81-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Eden Gardens on Thursday. It was a perfect homecoming for the Kolkata side which was playing in front of its fans after almost four years.

Asked to bat, Knight Riders relied on superb knocks from the traded players – Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Shardul – to rattle up 204 for seven.

The hosts then benefited from the magic of its spinners – Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy and debutant Suyash Sharma – to bundle out Royal Challengers for 123.

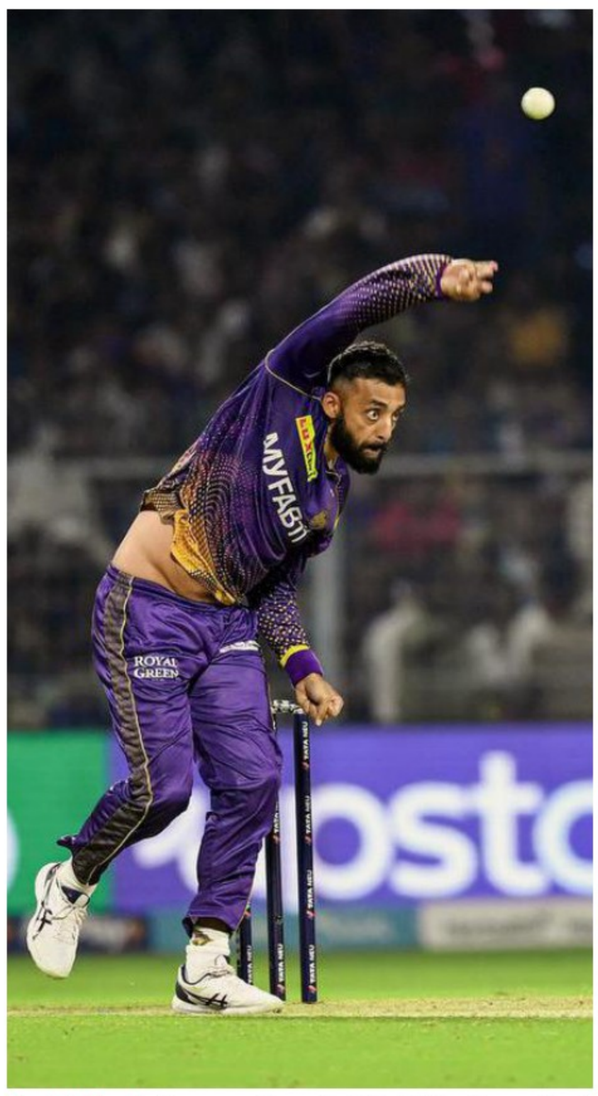
Gurbaz (57, 44b, 6x4, 3x6), who moved from Gujarat Titans, impressed a packed house by singlehandedly scoring runs in the initial overs and provided a decent start even though Nitish Rana's men lost three wickets within seven overs.

Left-arm pacer David Willey, who bowled a good length, castled Venkatesh Iyer and Mandeep Singh off consecutive deliveries while off-spinner Michael Bracewell removed captain Rana. Gurbaz, batting with a clear head and agile feet, was at ease both against the pacers and spinners. He produced some stunning shots and also ran well between the wickets.

Leg-spinner Karn sent back Gurbaz and Andre Russell off successive balls to leave Knight Riders in dire straits. However, Shardul (68, 29b, 9x4, 3x6), who was traded from Delhi Capitals, counter-attacked. He showcased his big hits, showing a penchant for the area between cover and long-off, and fine-leg and midwicket.

Shardul notched up his fifty off 20 balls, the joint fastest with Jos Buttler in this edition, and forged a 103-run partnership with Rinku Singh (46, 33b, 2x4, 3x6), who accelerated towards the finish.

The sixth-wicket stand end what was a memorable game for Knight Riders.



Magic in the air: Varun spun the contest Knight Riders' way with a four-wicket haul after a Shardul special with the bat pulled the team out of the woods. K.R. DEEPAK

Next assignment

KKR: April 9 **vs. GT**
Ahmedabad, 3.30 p.m.

RCB: April 10 **vs. LSG**
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Akash Deep b Karn 57 *(44b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Venkatesh Iyer b Willey 3 *(7b)*, Mandeep Singh b Willey 0 *(1b)*, Nitish Rana c Karthik b Bracewell 1 *(5b)*, Rinku Singh c Karthik b Harshal 46 *(33b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Andre Russell c Kohli b Karn 0 *(1b)*, Shardul Thakur c Maxwell b Siraj 68 *(29b, 9x4, 3x6)*, Sunil Narine (not out) 0 *(1b)*, Umesh Yadav (not out) 6 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-6, w-10, nb-3): 23; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 204.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-26 (Venkatesh, 3.2 overs), 2-26 (Mandeep, 3.3), 3-47 (Rana, 6.1), 4-89 (Gurbaz, 11.2), 5-89 (Russell, 11.3), 6-192 (Rinku, 18.6), 7-198 (Shardul, 19.4).

RCB BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-44-1 Willey 4-1-16-2, Akash Deep 2-0-30-0, Bracewell 3-0-34-1, Shahbaz 1-0-6-0, Karn 3-0-26-2, Harshal 3-0-38-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Virat Kohli b Narine 21 *(18b, 3x4)*, Faf du Plessis b Varun 23 *(12b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Michael Bracewell c Rana b Shardul 19 *(18b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Glenn Maxwell b Varun 5 *(7b, 1x4)*, Harshal Patel b Varun 0 *(2b)*, Shahbaz Ahmed c Shardul b Narine 1 *(5b)*, Dinesh Karthik c Varun b Suyash 9 *(8b, 1x4)*, Anuj Rawat **(Impact Player in place of Siraj)** c Narine b Suyash 1 *(5b)*, David Willey (not out) 20 *(20b, 2x4)*, Karn Sharma c Rana b Suyash 1 *(3b)*, Akash Deep c & b Varun 17 *(8b, 2x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-1): 6; Total (in 17.4 overs): 123.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-44 (Kohli, 4.5), 2-46 (du Plessis, 5.2), 3-54 (Maxwell, 7.2), 4-54 (Harshal, 7.4), 5-61 (Shahbaz, 8.5), 6-83 (Bracewell, 11.3), 7-84 (Rawat, 12.2), 8-86 (Karthik, 12.5), 9-96 (Karn, 14.3).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Umesh 2-0-17-0, Southee 2-0-25-0, Narine 4-0-16-2, Varun 3.4-0-15-4, Suyash **(IP in place of Venkatesh)** 4-0-30-3, Shardul 2-0-15-1; **Toss:** RCB.

Turning heads: Suyash made a sensational IPL debut. K.R. DEEPAK

Suyash — Kolkata's new mystery

Shayan Acharya

Suyash Sharma was a mystery until he made his debut for KKR against RCB at the Eden Gardens on Thursday.

The leg-spinner went on to bamboozle Faf du Plessis' men, snaring three wickets in his team's thumping win.

Suyash was roped in by Knight Riders for his base price of ₹20 lakh at the auction. KKR CEO Venky Mysore credited the 19-year-old's discovery to his team's scouts.

Hailing from Bhajanpura in East Delhi, Suyash was first noticed in the Delhi circuit and eventually represented Dena Bank in the DDCA League.

Despite a poor campaign for the Delhi u-25 team, he was flown into Mumbai for a trial by KKR ahead of the auction.

"The unique thing about him is that he can bowl leg-spin and googlies at a good speed.

"It is difficult for batters to pick his googlies," Pankaj Singh, coach of the Delhi u-25 team last year, said.

KKR skipper Nitish Rana said the cracked surface at the Eden paved the way for Suyash getting a chance.

He came on as the side's impact player and teamed up with Varun Chakravarthy to spin a web around the RCB lineup, dismissing Anuj Rawat and Dinesh Karthik in a span of three deliveries.

He also removed Karn Sharma in the 15th over to round off an impressive debut.

It's time the Indian Premier League kept an eye on the clock

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

When Punjab Kings pipped Rajasthan Royals by five runs on Wednesday, in what was a worthy addition to their glorious history of dishing out humdingers, it begged the question as to how many fans sat up to witness the climax. The game concluded at 11.42 p.m., the latest finish in Indian Premier League 2023 so far.

Long nights in the IPL aren't new. Strategising between deliveries, changing fields constantly and timeouts have long-affected timekeeping.

But this season, overrates have been excruciatingly slow, pushing matches beyond four hours. Not a single innings that has seen the full quota of 20 overs has stuck to the stipulated 90 minutes.

In this edition, to speed up play, an in-game penalty of having one fielder fewer outside the 30-yard circle for overs not bowled within time was introduced.

But with allowances being made for referrals, injuries and things beyond the players' control like change of ball because of dew and ball retrieval from the crowd, this rule has all but remained on paper.

Reviewing wide and no-ball decisions has added to the delay.

No sticklers: The teams' tardy over-rate has led to long-drawn matches in this edition. K.R. DEEPAK

In the Kings-Royals match, a wide review (of Shikhar Dhawan) took an agonisingly long time, and the conclusion wasn't to everybody's satisfaction.

Former Australian cricketer and expert Tom Moody even tweeted: "2 minutes 30 seconds for the wide review which was ultimately judged incorrectly!"

The end result may be that viewers will lose interest and the sport the ability to find newer audiences.

Disingenuous

It would be disingenuous to think that an average working Indian would be fine watching late-night matches routinely. The same can be said of students, parents, the elderly and those who frequent stadiums.

When the England and Wales Cricket Board proposed The Hundred (100-ball tournament) in 2018, one of the main aims was to finish a contest within a two-and-a-half-hour window.

"T20 has become a longer format and it is [taking] more than four hours," said Andrew Strauss, ECB's then director of cricket. "We want kids to be able to go to bed earlier and it is worth saying it is going to be on terrestrial TV (BBC)."

In India, inexpensive internet plans – IPL 2023 is being streamed for free – means the game doesn't require slots on free-to-air television (Doordarshan) to attract eyeballs. But viewership numbers do matter.

"Parents and students are not able to watch the matches fully as they finish very late," said R. Chithra, a parent. "An early finish will enthuse early risers like students to follow the games seamlessly."

In late 2018, tennis introduced the 25-second shot-clock between points to quicken the pace. Maybe it's time for the IPL to explore something similar.

Bolstered by South African players, Super Giants and Sunrisers clash

M.R. Praveen Chandran
LUCKNOW

The recently arrived South Africans will present selection headaches to both camps but Sunrisers Hyderabad will be more keen to welcome them when it takes on Lucknow Super Giants here on Friday.

The trio of captain Aiden Markram, Heinrich Klaasen and Marco Jansen will give the necessary ammunition for Sunrisers to seriously mount a challenge on Super Giants.

After floundering against spin in the last match against Chennai Super Kings, Super Giants will look to cash in on to the home advantage.

Kyle Mayers has been a revelation as opener, but captain K.L. Rahul hasn't fired and his side needs to improve its middle-overs batting to put up a challenging total.

The availability of Quinton de Kock will force a tweak in the batting order. Mark Wood and Ravi Bishnoi were exceptional but other bowlers will have to put in a more disciplined effort.

Sunrisers looked out of sorts against Rajasthan Royals but it has put the loss behind it and is primed to face Super Giants.

Skipper Markram said the key was to replicate the good things his team did in the first match and play positively against the Lucknow side.

Points Table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	2	2	0	4	0.700
Punjab Kings	2	2	0	4	0.333
Kolkata Knight Riders	2	1	1	2	2.056
Rajasthan Royals	2	1	1	2	1.675
Lucknow Super Giants	2	1	1	2	0.950
Chennai Super Kings	2	1	1	2	0.036
Royal Challengers Bangalore	2	1	1	2	-1.256
Delhi Capitals	2	0	2	0	-1.703
Mumbai Indians	1	0	1	0	-1.981
Sunrisers Hyderabad	1	0	1	0	-3.600

After the KKR-RCB match on April 6

Today's match

Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 1
LSG 1 | SRH 0

ONLY MEETING
LSG won by **12 runs**, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

INBRIEF

World Cup-winner Argentina moves to top of FIFA rankings

World Cup winner Argentina topped the FIFA rankings on Thursday for the first time in six years. Argentina's two wins in friendlies last month ended the one-year run at the top for Brazil, which lost to Morocco 2-1 and fell to No. 3. France followed Argentina in rising one place to No. 2. India moved up five places to the 101st spot, riding on victories over Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan in the recent Tri-nation tournament.

Real powers past Barcelona via Benzema hat-trick

Karim Benzema struck a hat-trick as Real Madrid hammered Barcelona 4-0 at Camp Nou to reach the Copa del Rey final where it will face Osasuna, progressing 4-1 on aggregate.

The result: Semifinal, second leg: Barcelona 0 lost to Real Madrid 4 (Vinicius 45+1 Benzema 50, 58, 80) (*Real progresses 4-1 on aggregate*).

Leipzig sinks Dortmund, enters German Cup semis

Holder RB Leipzig kept its hopes of a second straight German Cup title alive, winning 2-0 against Borussia Dortmund to reach the semifinals on Wednesday.

The results: Quarterfinals: Nuremberg 0 lost to Stuttgart 1 (Millot 83); RB Leipzig 2 (Werner 22, Orban 90+8) bt Borussia Dortmund 0.

Tucker's hundred leads Ireland fightback in Dhaka

Debutant Lorcan Tucker became only the second Irishman to hit a Test century, ably assisted by Andy McBrine's unbeaten 71, to lead a tenacious fightback against Bangladesh in Dhaka on Thursday. Ireland reached 286 for eight at stumps on the third day to lead the host by 131 runs after resuming on a precarious 27 for four.

The scores: Ireland 214 & 286/8 in 107 overs (H. Tector 56, L. Tucker 108, A. McBrine batting 71; Taijul 4/86) vs Bangladesh 369 (Mushfiqur Rahim 126, Shakib Al Hasan 87; A. McBrine 6/118).

Rajawat stuns Nishimoto, enters Orleans quarterfinals

Priyanshu Rajawat stunned top seed Kenta Nishimoto of Japan 21-8, 21-16 to make the quarterfinals of the Orleans Masters Super 300 badminton tournament in Orleans on Thursday. World No. 12 Nishimoto had claimed the Spain Masters title in Madrid last Sunday.

Other results: Men: Chi Yu Jen bt Mithun Manjunath 21-15, 21-19; **Mixed doubles:** Chen Tang Jie & Toh Ee Wei bt K. Sai Pratheek & Tanisha Crasto 21-23, 21-17, 23-21.

Aizawl makes the grade for Super Cup

Aizawl defeated TRAU 1-0 to qualify for the Super Cup football tournament at Manjeri on Thursday.

The result: Aizawl 1 (Ivan Veras 64) bt TRAU 0.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 4.30 a.m.
Bangladesh vs Ireland: Only Test, day 4, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Saturday).
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday).

Trying to get the guys to understand the philosophy around death bowling: Bravo

Yorker is the most important ball, but it's one of the most difficult balls to bowl; so, you have to put in the hours to practise and have many different options, says CSK's bowling coach

IPL-16

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Dwayne Bravo did one of the most challenging jobs in T20 cricket for Chennai Super Kings – as the primary death-overs bowler – for 10 seasons (2011-2015 & 2018-2022).

After calling time on his IPL career last year, the 39-year-old is now trying to impart wisdom to the young bowlers as CSK's bowling coach.

"There is a particular template that I try to follow. The bowling group and the other coach, Eric (Simmons), are all on the same page, trying to get the guys to understand the philosophy around death bowling. So it's a work in progress," said Bravo on his new role during an interaction.

"It's impossible to try and coach the players how I used to bowl in the back end or how (Lasith) Malinga used to do it. They have to develop their style, and we just have to encourage them," the all-rounder added.

Elaborating on how to succeed when the batters are coming hard, Bravo – who has two IPL Purple Caps for most wickets in a season (2103 & 2015) – spoke about the importance of a yorker in a bowler's arsenal even if he is not quick.

"It is the most important ball in death bowling, but it's one of the most difficult balls to bowl. So, you have to put in the hours to practise and have many different options; from over the wicket, around the wicket, bowling wide, bowling straight," said the former West Indian captain.

"If you don't have a yorker, you will not survive unless you bowl really quick. Even if you bowl over 150 kph, there comes a moment where you need to rely on a yorker because it's the most difficult ball to get away and is the safest option," said the cricketer from Trinidad & Tobago, who has 615 wickets in T20s.

Coachspeak: Bravo says the CSK bowling unit is a work in progress. FILE PHOTO

Humpy may miss Asiad due to COVID-19 fears

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Two-time Asian Games gold medallist and Woman Grandmaster K. Humpy could give the continental multi-discipline event later this year a miss. Asked about her expectations at the Asiad, where chess is set to return after 13 years – the last time the sport was part of the Games was in 2010 Guangzhou – Humpy said: "I'm not sure about my participation in the Asian Games because it's being held in China. Probably, I'll decide in June or July. (It's) because of Covid-19," Humpy said.

"I really wanted to take part the Asian Games. But I'm a bit unhappy that it's being held in China. Let me think and decide upon that."

Kalikesh takes over as NRAI chief

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Governing Body of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), has accepted the long leave of absence by its president Raninder Singh, and has unanimously approved handing over of charge to the senior vice president, Kalikesh Singh Deo, as per the NRAI's constitution.

The case on Raninder's election and tenure continues in the Delhi High Court.

"Our immediate priority is in putting our best foot forward for the Asian Games and the World Championships," said Kalikesh Singh. He also acknowledged the splendid role of the government and all stakeholders.

The Union Sports Ministry had asked the NRAI to comply with the president's 12-year tenure provision as per the National Sports Code. The NRAI has countered the order by saying that it was issued without going through the details

Hoge risks hoodoo, pips Watson to Par-3 Contest triumph

AUGUSTA MASTERS

Agence France-Presse
AUGUSTA

Tom Hoge overtook LIV Golf's Bubba Watson with an ace-birdie finish to win Wednesday's Masters Par-3 Contest, risking an Augusta National curse on the eve of the 87th Masters.

Legend has it...

No Par-3 Contest winner has captured the green jacket in the same year, thus building the tradition of a Masters hoodoo.

Two-time Masters champion Watson, who aced the 70-yard fourth hole, led the Contest on five-under. But Hoge, a 33-year-old who won his only PGA title last year at Pebble Beach, had no problem going for the victory on the special 1,055-yard nine-hole layout.

World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, the defending Masters champion, aced the ninth hole – a good omen as he tries to match Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Nick Faldo as the only back-to-back Green Jacket winners.

Tom Watson in 1982 and Canada's Mike Weir in 2004 are the only other defending champions to make a hole-in-one in the Par-3 Contest.

Scheffler is the bookmaker's favourite to slip into the famous green jacket on Sunday evening. The build-up has been dominated by the presence, for the first time at the Masters, of players from the breakaway, Saudi-backed LIV Golf Tour and that focus is unlikely to fade.

Five-time Masters winner Tiger Woods continues to battle the aches and pains of his multiple injuries. Woods has speculated this may be one of his final appearances at Augusta National.

Last year's runner-up, Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy, is hoping to finally complete his career Grand Slam with a long-awaited Masters triumph. McIlroy has been a leading supporter of the PGA Tour, for whom a nightmare scenario would be the sight of a LIV player celebrating in the green jacket.

Australian Cameron Smith, the reigning British Open champion, tied for third at Augusta last year, while fellow LIV Golf player Brooks Koepka has won four Majors and Dustin Johnson, who won LIV's first season, triumphed in Augusta three years ago.

Other contenders

The PGA Tour has a deeper list of contenders with World No. 3 Jon Rahm of Spain, 2015 winner Jordan Spieth and two-time Major winner Justin Thomas among those in with a chance.

Fingers crossed: Hoge will be looking to change the fact that no Par-3 winner has worn the Green Jacket. AP

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Manipur qualifies for main event

BENGALURU: Manipur beat Karnataka 4-2 in a Group Six match of the 27th senior women's National football championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Thursday.

The win was Manipur's fourth on the bounce and helped it qualify for the main event. Karnataka, with nine points, is expected to make the grade as one of the best second-placed teams.

The results: Manipur 4 (Moirangthem Mondakini Devi 5, Heigrujam Daya Devi 48, 49, S. Lynda Kom 83) bt Karnataka 2 (Kaviya Pakkirisamy 32, Aruna Bag 44); Gujarat 2 (Khushbu Saroj 60, 90+1) bt Assam 0.

Rising Star bests Shimoga Youths

Rising Star BC Mysore beat Shimoga Youths 96-71 in the Karnataka Rural Basketball League being held at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

The results: VBC Mandya 65 (Shashank Raj 10, Raghavendra 10) bt Miracle BC Hubli 31 (Puneeth 10); Rising Star BC Mysore 96 (Amogh 17, Arpan 13) bt Shimoga Youths 71 (Kiran 21, Pratheek 16); Mangalore BC 79 (Pradeep 21, Rajath 21) bt Brothers BC Bijapur 43 (Lalsab 10, Faisal 10); Aryans BC Mysore 60 (Dhavan 24, Deepak 14) bt Gulbarga BC 25 (Chetan 11).

BFC's Grayson opts for strong squad for Super Cup

Head coach Simon Grayson has named a strong Bengaluru FC squad for the upcoming Super Cup to be held in Kerala. BFC takes on Sreenidi Deccan in the opening fixture on April 8 in Kozhikode.

Among the additions to the squad that reached the Indian Super League final are players from the Karnataka State squad that won the 76th Santosh Trophy – defender Robin Yadav and midfielders Lalremtluanga Fanai and Shreyas Ketkar.

Defender Alan Costa is the only foreigner missing, having ended his loan spell last month.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrit Gope, Lara Sharma, Sharon Padattil; **Defenders:** Sandesh Jhingan, Parag Shrivas, Aleksandar Jovanovic, Naorem Roshan Singh, Prabir Das, Namgyal Bhutia, Wungngayam Muirang, Robin Yadav, Biswa Darjee; **Midfielders:** Bruno Ramires, Jayesh Rane, Suresh Wangjam, Javi Hernandez, Rohit Kumar, Pablo Perez, Ashish Jha, Lalremtluanga Fanai, Thoi Singh, Damaitphang Lyngdoh, Shreyas Ketkar; **Strikers:** Sunil Chhetri, N. Sivasakthi, Roy Krishna, Harmanpreet Singh, Leon Augustine, Udanta Singh.

Frank Lampard. AFP

Lampard back at Chelsea as caretaker manager

Reuters
LONDON

Frank Lampard has returned to Chelsea as caretaker manager until the end of the season following the sacking of Graham Potter, the Premier League club confirmed on Thursday.

The club's record goalscorer previously spent 19 months as manager at Stamford Bridge before being dismissed in January 2021.

"We are delighted to welcome Frank back to Stamford Bridge. Frank is a Premier League Hall of Famer and a legend at this club," co-controlling owners Todd Boehly and Behdad Eghbali said in a statement on the club's website.

Newcastle hammers West Ham; Manchester United in top four

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
MANCHESTER

Marcus Rashford sent Manchester United back into the Premier League top four with the winner as the Red Devils beat Brentford 1-0 on Wednesday, while Newcastle won 5-1 at West Ham to stay third.

Callum Wilson and Joelinton each scored twice for the Magpies, who remain above United on goal difference.

Both sides now have a three-point lead over Tottenham and a game in hand over Spurs in the race for a place in next season's Champions League.

United had slipped to fifth after a run of three league games without a win and cup commitments.

United started brightly and could have been in front before Rashford's strike as Anthony and Scott McTominay fired just off target.

Rashford started through the middle as Ten Hag's patience with Wout Weghorst finally ran out and that decision bore fruit when the England international was perfectly placed to side-foot home Marcel Sabitzer's knockdown for his 28th goal of the season.

A fourth consecutive win edged Newcastle closer to the Champions League for the first time in 20 years.

Wilson was restored to the starting line-up by Eddie Howe in place of Alexander Isak and rewarded his manager's trust by heading home the opener after just six minutes.

Joelinton doubled the Magpies lead inside 13 minutes as the Brazilian latched onto Fabian Schar's ball over the top and coolly rounded Lukasz Fabianski before slotting into an empty net.

Kurt Zouma's header just before half-time briefly gave West Ham hope.

But within seconds of the second half kick off, Nayef Aguerd was dispossessed inside his own box by Jacob Murphy, who squared for Wilson to have a tap in.

Another West Ham gift allowed Isak to make it four as Fabianski cleared the ball into the Swede's path before Joelinton delivered the final blow.

The results: Manchester United 1 (Rashford 27) bt Brentford 0; West Ham 1 (Zouma 40) lost to Newcastle 5 (Wilson 6, 46, Joelinton 13, 90, Isak 82).

Tap in: Wilson, left, has the easiest of finishes for Newcastle's third against West Ham. AFP